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Improved Internal Combustion Engine and Working Cycle

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This invention relates to a method of deriving mechanical work from
combusting gas in an internal combustion engine by means of a new
15 thermodynamic working cycle and to reciprocating internal combustion engines
for carrying out the method.

Background of Invention

20 It is well known that as the expansion ratio of an internal combustion
engine is increased, more energy is extracted from the combustion gases and
converted to kinetic energy and the thermodynamic efficiency of the engine
increases. It is further understood that increasing air charge density increases both
power and fuel economy due to further thermodynamic improvements. The
25 objectives for an efficient engine are to provide a high-density charge, begin
combustion at maximum density and then expand the gases as far as possible
against a piston.

Conventional engines have the same compression and expansion ratios, the former being limited in spark-ignited engines by the octane rating of the fuel used. Furthermore, since in these engines the exploded gases can be expanded only to the extent of the compression ratio of the engine, there is generally
5 substantial heat and pressure in the exploding cylinder which is dumped into the atmosphere at the time the exhaust valve opens resulting in a waste of energy and producing unnecessarily high polluting emissions.

Many attempts have been made to reduce the compression ratio and to
10 extend the expansion process in internal combustion engines to increase their thermodynamic efficiency, the most notable one being the "Miller" Cycle engine, developed in 1947.

Unlike a conventional 4-stroke cycle engine, where the compression ratio
15 equals the expansion ratio in any given combustion cycle, the Miller Cycle engine is a variant, in that the parity is altered intentionally. The Miller Cycle uses an ancillary compressor to supply an air charge, introducing the charge on the intake stroke of the piston and then closing the intake valve before the piston reaches the end of the inlet stroke. From this point the gases in the cylinder are expanded to
20 the maximum cylinder volume and then compressed from that point as in the normal cycle. The compression ratio is then established by the volume of the cylinder at the point that the inlet valve closed, being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. On the compression stroke, no actual compression starts until the piston reaches the point the intake valve closed during the intake stroke,
25 thus producing a lower-than-normal compression ratio. The expansion ratio is calculated by dividing the swept volume of the cylinder by the volume of the combustion chamber, resulting in a more-complete-expansion, since the expansion ratio is greater than the compression ratio of the engine.

In the 2-stroke engine the Miller Cycle holds the exhaust valve open through the first 20% or so of the compression stroke in order to reduce the compression ratio of the engine. In this case the expansion ratio is probably still lower than the compression ratio since the expansion ratio is never as large as the compression ratio in conventional 2-stroke engines.

The advantage of this cycle is the possibility of obtaining an efficiency higher than could be obtained with an expansion ratio equal to the compression ratio. The disadvantage is that the Miller Cycle has a mean effective pressure lower than the conventional arrangement with the same maximum pressure, but with no appreciable improvements in emissions characteristics.

The Miller Cycle is practical for engines that are not frequently operated at light-loads, because at light-load operation the mean cylinder pressure during the expansion stroke tends to be near to, or even lower than, the friction mean pressure. Under such circumstances the more-complete-expansion portion of the cycle may involve a net loss rather than a gain in efficiency.

This type of engine may be used to advantage where maximum cylinder pressure is limited by detonation or stress considerations and where a sacrifice of specific output is permissible in order to achieve the best possible fuel economy. The cycle is suitable only for engines that operate most of the time under conditions of high mechanical efficiency, that is, at relatively low piston speeds and near full load.

Summary of the Invention

Briefly described, the present invention comprises an internal combustion engine system (including methods and apparatuses) for managing combustion charge densities, temperatures, pressures and turbulence in order to produce a true

mastery within the power cylinder in order to increase fuel economy, power, and torque while minimizing polluting emissions. In its preferred embodiments, the method includes the steps of (i) producing an air charge, (ii) controlling the temperature, density and pressure of the air charge, (iii) transferring the air charge to a power cylinder of the engine such that an air charge having a weight and density selected from a range of weight and density levels ranging from atmospheric weight and density to a heavier-than-atmospheric weight and density is introduced into the power cylinder, and (iv) then compressing the air charge at a lower-than-normal compression ratio, (v) causing a pre-determined quantity of charge-air and fuel to produce a combustible mixture, (vi) causing the mixture to be ignited within the power cylinder, and (vii) allowing the combustion gas to expand against a piston operable in the power cylinder with the expansion ratio of the power cylinder being substantially greater than the compression ratio of the power cylinders of the engine. In addition to other advantages, the invented method is capable of producing mean effective [cylinder] pressures ("mep") in a range ranging from lower-than-normal to higher-than-normal. In the preferred embodiments, the mean effective cylinder pressure is selectively variable (and selectively varied) throughout the mentioned range during the operation of the engine. In an alternate embodiment related to constant speed-constant load operation, the mean effective cylinder pressure is selected from the range and the engine is configured, in accordance with the present invention, such that the mean effective cylinder pressure range is limited, being varied only in the amount required for producing the power, torque and speed of the duty cycle for which the engine is designed.

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In its preferred embodiments, the apparatus of the present invention provides a reciprocating internal combustion engine with at least one ancillary compressor for compressing an air charge, an intercooler through which the compressed air can be directed for cooling, power cylinders in which the combustion gas is ignited and expanded, a piston operable in each power cylinder

and connected to a crankshaft by a connecting link for rotating the crankshaft in response to reciprocation of each piston, a transfer conduit communicating the compressor outlet to a control valve and to the intercooler, a transfer manifold communicating the intercooler with the power cylinders through which manifold the compressed charge is transferred to enter the power cylinders, an intake valve controlling admission of the compressed charge from the transfer manifold to said power cylinders, and an exhaust valve controlling discharge of the exhaust gases from said power cylinders. For the 4-stroke engine of this invention, the intake valves of the power cylinders are timed to operate such that charge air which is equal to or heavier than normal can be maintained within the transfer manifold when required and introduced into the power cylinder during the intake stroke with the intake valve closing at a point substantially before piston bottom dead center position or, alternatively, with the intake valve closing at some point during the compression stroke, to provide a low compression ratio. In some designs another intake valve can open and close quickly after the piston has reached the point the first intake valve closed in order to inject a temperature adjusted high pressure secondary air charge still at such a time that the compression ratio of the engine will be less than the expansion ratio, and so that ignition can commence at substantially maximum charge density. The 2-stroke engine of this invention differs in that the intake valves of the power cylinders are timed to operate such that an air charge is maintained within the transfer manifold and introduced into the power cylinder during the scavenging-compression (the 2nd) stroke at such a time that the power cylinder has been scavenged by low pressure air and the exhaust valve has closed, establishing that the compression ratio of the engine will be less than the expansion ratio of the power cylinders. Means are provided for causing fuel to be mixed with the air charge to produce a combustible gas, the combustion chambers of the power cylinders are sized with respect to the displaced volume of the power cylinder such that the exploded combustion gas can be expanded to a volume substantially greater than the compression ratio of the power cylinder of the engine.

The chief advantages of the present invention over existing internal combustion engines are that it provides a compression ratio lower than the expansion ratio of the engine, and provides, selectively, a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than the conventional engine arrangement with the same or lower maximum cylinder pressure than that of prior art engines.

This allows greater fuel economy, and production of greater power and torque at all RPM, with low polluting emissions. Because charge densities, temperatures and pressures are managed, light-load operation is practical even for extended periods, with no sacrifice of fuel economy. The new working cycle is applicable to 2-stroke or 4-stroke engines, both spark-ignited and compression-ignited. For spark-ignited engines the weight of the charge can be greatly increased without the usual problems of high peak temperatures and pressures with the usual attendant problem of combustion detonation and pre-ignition. For compression-ignited engines, the heavier, cooler, more turbulent charge provides low peak cylinder pressure for a given expansion ratio and allows richer, smoke-limited air-fuel ratio giving increased power with lower particulate and NO_x emissions. Compression work is reduced due to reduced heat transfer during the compression process. Engine durability is improved because of an overall cooler working cycle and a cooler than normal exhaust. It also provides a means of regenerative braking for storing energy for subsequent positive power cycles without compression work and for transient or "burst" power which further increases the overall efficiency of the engine.

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All of the objects, features and advantages of the present invention cannot be briefly stated in this summary, but will be understood by reference to the following specifications and the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Embodiments of internal combustion engines according to the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying
5 drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 4-stroke cycle, and representing a first embodiment of the apparatus of the present
10 invention from which a first method of operation can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having one ancillary compressor, a cooling system and valves to control charge pressures, density and temperature.

Fig. 2 is a schematic drawing of a six cylinder internal combustion engine, similar to the engine of Fig. 1, operating in a 4-stroke cycle, and representing a second embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which a second method of operation can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having two compressors, three
15 intercoolers, four control valves, dual air paths for both the primary and the ancillary compressors, dual manifolds and showing a means of controlling charge-air pressures, density and temperatures.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 4-stroke cycle, and representing a third embodiment of the apparatus of the present
25 invention from which a third method of operation can be performed and will be described.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 4-stroke cycle, and representing a fourth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which a fourth method of operation can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having an ancillary compressor, with two charge-air intake ducts and dual intake air routes, one of which is low pressure and one which is high pressure, and both leading to the same power cylinder, a cooling system and valves for controlling charge-air pressures, density and temperature and an ancillary atmospheric air intake system.

Fig. 4-B is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of an engine similar to the engine of Fig. 4 with the exception that there is only one atmospheric air intake which supplies charge-air to the power cylinders at two different pressure levels.

Fig. 4-C is a schematic view of an exhaust and an air intake system of an engine showing a means of re-burning exhaust gases in order to reduce polluting emissions.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 4-stroke cycle, and representing a fifth embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which a fifth method of operation can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having one atmospheric air intake, an ancillary compressor with two charge-air routes, one of which is low pressure and which has two optional routes, and one which is high pressure, both leading to the same power cylinder, and control valving means and air coolers for varying charge densities, pressures and temperatures in the combustion chamber of the engine.

Fig. 6 is a part sectional view through one power cylinder of the 4-stroke engine of Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B, Fig. 5, Fig. 7 or Fig. 33 at the intake valves showing an alternative method (adaptable to other embodiments of the present invention) of preventing charge-air back flow and of automatically adjusting the charge pressure-ratio of the cylinder during the air charging process.

Fig. 7 is a schematic drawing of a six cylinder, 4-stroke engine representing yet another embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention, from which yet another method of operation can be performed and will be described, and depicting three alternative systems (two in phantom lines) of inducting a low pressure primary air charge. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having three air coolers and dual manifolds and the means of controlling the temperature, density and pressure of the charge by an engine control module and by valving variations.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine, operating in a 2-stroke cycle, and representing a first 2-stroke embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which still another method of operation can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having a primary and an ancillary compressor, a cooling system and conduits and valves to adjust charge density, temperature and pressure according to the invention.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 2-stroke cycle, and representing a second 2-stroke embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which still another method of operation of can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment

is seen as having one atmospheric air intake, a primary and an ancillary compressor, with two charge-air routes, one of which is low pressure which has alternate routes, and one of which is high pressure, and both leading to the same power cylinder, and control valving means and air coolers for varying charge
5 densities, pressures and temperatures in the combustion chamber of the engine.

Fig. 9-B is a schematic drawing of a six cylinder, 2-stroke engine representing yet another embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention, from which yet another method of operation can be performed and will be
10 described, and depicting two alternative systems (one in phantom lines) of inducting a low pressure primary air charge. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having three air coolers and dual manifolds and the means of controlling the temperature, density and pressure of the charge by an engine control module and by valving variations.

15 Fig. 10 is a part sectional view through one power cylinder of the 2-stroke engine of Fig. 9, at the intake valves, showing an alternative method (adaptable to other embodiments of the present invention) of preventing charge-air back flow during high pressure air charging and showing a pressure balanced valve having a
20 pumped oil/air cooling system.

Fig. 11 is a perspective view (with portions in cross-section) of the cylinder block and head of a six cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 2-stroke cycle, and representing a third 2-stroke embodiment of the apparatus of
25 the present invention from which still another method of operation of can be performed and will be described. Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having a primary and an ancillary compressor, a cooling system and conduits and valves to adjust charge density, temperature and pressure and having a single air intake runner for each power cylinder with at least two intake valves
30 arranged in such a manner that one intake valve can operate with timing

independent of the other intake valve.

Fig. 12 is a pressure-volume diagram comparing the cycle of the engine of this invention with that of a high-speed diesel engine.

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Fig. 13 is a chart showing improvements possible in the engine of this invention in effective compression ratios, peak temperatures and pressures, charge densities and expansion ratios, in comparison with a popular heavy-duty 2-stroke diesel engine.

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Fig. 14 is a chart showing improvements possible in the engine of this invention in effective compression ratios, peak temperatures and pressures, charge densities and expansion ratios, in comparison with a popular heavy-duty, 4-stroke diesel engine.

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Fig. 15 is a schematic drawing of suggested operating parameters for operation of the engines, both 2-stroke and 4-stroke, of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 showing dual intercoolers for the main compressor, a single intercooler for a secondary compressor and a control system and valves for selecting different charge-air paths for light-load operations, and depicting (one in phantom lines) two alternative systems of inducting a low pressure primary air charge.

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Fig. 16 shows suggested valve positions for supplying manifolds 13 and 14 with an air charge optimum for medium-load operation for the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10. For medium-load operation the shutter valve 5 of compressor 2 would be closed and the air bypass valve 6 would be open to pass the air charge uncooled without compression to the intake of compressor 1 where closed shutter valve 3 and closed air bypass valve 4 directs the air charge now compressed by compressor 1 past the intercoolers to manifolds 13 and 14 with the air compressed and heated by compressor 1, for medium-load operation.

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Fig. 17 shows a suggested scenario for providing the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 with a high density air charge for heavy duty, high power output operation. Fig. 17 shows all shutter valves 5 and 3 and all air bypass valves 6 and 4 closed completely so that the primary stage of compression is operative and a second stage of compression is operative and the entire air charge, with the exception of any going through conduit 32 to intake valve 16-B, is being passed through the intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 to produce a very high density air charge to manifolds 13 and 14 and to the engines power cylinders for heavy-load operation.

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Fig. 18 shows a schematic drawing representing any of the engines of Fig. 3-Fig. 11, depicting an alternative type of auxiliary compressor 2' and a system of providing a means for disabling or cutting out the auxiliary compressor when high charge pressure and density is not needed. For relieving compressor 2' of work, shutter valve 5 is closed and air bypass valve is opened so that air pumped through compressor 2' can re-circulate through compressor 2' without requiring compression work.

Fig. 19 is a schematic drawing representing the engines shown in Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 and having two compressors, and one intercooler for one stage of compression, dual intercoolers for a second stage of compression, dual manifolds, four valves and an engine control module (ECM) and illustrating means of controlling charge-air density, pressure and temperature by varying directions and amounts of air flow through the various electronic or vacuum operated valves and their conduits.

Fig. 20 is a schematic drawing showing optional electric motor drive of the air compressors of the engines of Figs. 1 through Fig. 11.

Fig. 21 is a schematic transverse sectional view of a pre-combustion chamber, a combustion chamber and associated fuel inlet ducts and valving suggested for gaseous or liquid fuel operation for the engines of this invention or for any other internal combustion engine.

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Fig. 22 is a part sectional view through one cylinder of an engine showing an alternate construction whereby there is supplied two firing strokes each revolution of the shaft for a 2-stroke engine and one firing stroke each revolution of the shaft for a 4-stroke engine, having a beam which pivots on its lower
10 extremity, a connecting rod which is joined mid-point of the beam and is fitted to the crankshaft of the engine, and whereby a means is provided for varying the compression ratio of the engine at will.

Fig. 23 is a part sectional view through one cylinder of an engine showing
15 an alternate construction whereby there is supplied two firing strokes each crankshaft revolution for a 2-stroke engine and one firing stroke each revolution of the shaft for a 4-stroke engine, and whereby the beam connecting the connecting rod and the piston pivots at a point between the piston and the piston connecting rod, which connecting rod is attached to the crankshaft of the engine,
20 and an alternate preferred means of power take-off from the piston by a conventional piston rod, cross-head and connecting rod arrangement.

Fig. 24 is a part sectional view through one cylinder of an engine showing
25 a means of providing extra burn-time each firing stroke in a 2-stroke or 4-stroke engine.

Fig. 25 is a perspective view of the cylinder block and head of a six
cylinder internal combustion engine operating in a 2-stroke cycle and representing
a yet another embodiment of the apparatus of the present invention from which
30 still another method of operation of can be performed and will be described.

Among its other components, this embodiment is seen as having scavenging ports in the bottom of the piston sleeves and having a primary and an ancillary compressor, a cooling system, valves and conduits to control the pressure, density and temperature of the charge-air, and valves and conduits to supply scavenging air to the cylinders.

Fig. 26 is a schematic drawing of an engine similar to the engine of Fig. 25 showing one intercooler for one optional stage of compression, dual intercoolers for a primary compression stage and showing a control system (including engine control module (ECM) and valving) for controlling charge-air density, weight, temperature and pressure by controlling directions and amounts of air flow through the various valves, conduits and an optional throttle valve, and showing two optional routes for supplying scavenging air to the scavenging ports in the bottom of the cylinders, and alternative routes for the exhausted gases to exit the engine.

Fig. 27 through Fig. 30 are schematic drawings of the engine of Fig. 25 and Fig. 26 showing four alternate methods suggested for efficient scavenging of the engines, Fig. 27 and Fig. 28 also show a schematic drawing for an engine control module (ECM) and valving to control charge-air and scavenging air at a pressure, density and temperature deemed appropriate for each.

Fig. 31 is a schematic drawing showing suggested optional electric motor drive for the engine's air compressors.

Fig. 32 is a schematic drawing of the 2-stroke engine of Fig. 25 and Fig. 26, having only one compressor for supplying both charge-air and scavenging air, and showing a control system and means of controlling charge and scavenging air at a pressure, density and temperature deemed appropriate for each, and showing means of channeling the air through different paths for the same purpose;

Fig. 33 is a schematic transverse sectional view through a six cylinder engine having two compressor cylinders, four power cylinders, one supercharger, five regulatory valves, and showing an engine control module (ECM) for
5 controlling charge temperatures, density and weight, and adopted for storage of compressed air compressed by regenerative braking, or for storage of bleed-air produced in some industrial processes, in any of the engines of this invention.

Fig. 34 is a schematic drawing representing any of the engines of the
10 present invention and showing an alternate embodiment which includes a separate, electric-powered air compressor and, alternatively, an entrance conduit leading from a supply of waste or "bleed" compressed air for supplying charge-air to the engine (or to a plurality of engines), whereby the need for engine-powered compressors is eliminated.

15 Fig. 35 is a schematic drawing representing any of the engines of the present invention depicted in an alternate embodiment which is configured to operate as a constant load and constant speed engine. This constant load and constant speed engine embodiment of the present invention is shown as including
20 both a primary and an ancillary compressor with optional intercoolers for providing two stages of pre-compressed charge-air, either optionally intercooled or adiabatically compressed.

Fig. 36 is a schematic drawing representing any of the engines of the
25 present invention, and depicting a constant load and constant speed engine in accordance with an alternate embodiment of the present invention in which there is provided a single compressor with optional intercoolers for providing a single stage of pre-compressed charge-air, either optionally intercooled or adiabatically compressed.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

With reference now in greater detail to the drawings, a plurality of alternate, preferred embodiments of the apparatus of the Improved Internal Combustion Engine 100 of the present invention are depicted. Like components will be represented by like numerals throughout the several views; and, in some but not all circumstances, as the writer might deem necessary (due to the large number of embodiments), similar but alternate components will be represented by superscripted numerals (e.g., 100¹). When there are a plurality of similar components, the plurality is often times referenced herein (e.g., six cylinders 7a - 7f), even though fewer than all components are visible in the drawing. Also, components which are common among multiple cylinders are sometimes written with reference solely to the common numeral, for ease of drafting - e.g. piston 22a-22f => piston 22. In an effort to facilitate the understanding of the plurality of embodiments, (but not to limit the disclosure) some, but not all, sections of this Detailed Description are sub-titled to reference the system or sub-system detailed in the subject section.

The invented system of the present invention is, perhaps, best presented by reference to the method(s) of managing combustion charge densities, temperatures, pressures and turbulence; and the following description attempts to describe the preferred methods of the present invention by association with and in conjunction with apparatuses configured for and operated in accordance with the alternate, preferred methods.

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Some, but not necessarily all, of the system components that are common to two or more of the herein depicted embodiments include a crankshaft 20, to which are mounted connecting rods 19a-19f, to each of which is mounted a piston 22a-22f; each piston traveling within a power cylinder 7a-7f; air being introduced into the cylinders through inlet ports controlled by intake valves 16, and air being

exhausted from the cylinders through exhaust ports controlled by exhaust valves 17. The interaction, modification and operation of these and such other components as are deemed necessary to an understanding of the various embodiments of the present invention are expressed below.

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The engine 100¹ of Fig 1

Referring now to Fig. 1, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100¹ in which all of the cylinders 7a-7f (only one of which is shown in a sectional view) and associated pistons 22a-22f operate in a 4-
 10 stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a-19f, respectively. An ancillary compressor 2 (herein depicted as a Lysholm rotary compressor) selectably supplies air which has been compressed, or allows delivery of air therethrough at atmospheric pressure, to manifolds 13 and 14 and to cylinders 7a-7f, which cylinders operate
 15 in a 4-stroke cycle. Valves 3, 5 and 6 and intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 are used, in the preferred embodiments, to control air charge density, weight, temperature and pressure. The intake valves 16a-16f, 16a'-16f' are timed to control the compression ratio of the engine 100¹. The combustion chambers are sized to establish the expansion ratio of the engine.

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The engines 100¹ - 100⁵, 100⁷ of Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 5, and Fig. 7, respectively, have camshafts 21 fitted with cams and are arranged to be driven at one-half the speed of the crankshaft in order to supply one power stroke for every two revolutions of the crankshaft, for each power piston. The rotary
 25 compressors 2 of Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B, Fig. 5, Fig. 7 and Fig. 33 can be driven by a ribbed V-belt and would have a step-up gear between the V pulley and the compressor drive shaft, the rotary compressors could also be fitted with a variable-speed step-up gear as in some aircraft engines. The reciprocating compressor 1 of Fig. 3 is shown as having double-acting cylinders linked to the
 30 crankshaft 20 by a connecting rod 19g; and the crankshaft 20 to which it is linked

by connecting rod 19g would supply two working strokes for each revolution of the crankshaft 20. In one alternate approach, the reciprocating compressor 1 is driven by the connecting rod 19g being connected to a short crankshaft above the main crankshaft 20 to which the ancillary crankshaft (not shown) would be geared by a step-up gear in order to provide more than two working strokes per revolution of the main crankshaft 20. Alternatively, the compressor system can have multiple stages of compression for either rotary or reciprocating compressors. Whereas, the ancillary compressor 1 and second ancillary compressor 2 of the various embodiments are depicted throughout as a reciprocating compressor or a rotary compressor, it is noted that the invention is not limited by the type of compressor utilized for each; and the depicted compressors may be interchanged, or may be the same, or may be other types of compressors performing the functions described herein.

The engine 100¹ shown in Fig. 1 is characterized by a more extensive expansion process, a low compression ratio and the capability of producing a combustion charge varying in weight from lighter-than-normal to heavier-than-normal, and capable of providing, selectively, a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than can the conventional arrangement of normal engines but capable of having a lower maximum cylinder pressure in comparison to conventional engines. An engine control module (ECM) (not shown in Fig. 1) and variable valves 3, 5 and 6 on conduits, as shown, provide a system for controlling the charge density, pressure, temperature, and the mean and peak pressure within the cylinder which allows greater fuel economy, production of greater torque and power at low RPM, with low polluting emissions for both spark and compression-ignited engines. In alternate embodiments, a variable valve timing system can be used and, with a control system such as an ECM, can control the time of opening and the time of closing of the intake valves 16 and 16' to further provide an improved management of conditions in the combustion chambers of cylinders 7a-7f of the engine 100¹ to allow for a flatter torque curve and higher power, when

needed, and with low levels of both fuel consumption and polluting emissions.

Brief Description of Operation of the engine 100¹ shown in Fig. 1

The engine 100¹ of this invention shown in Fig. 1 is a high efficiency
 5 engine that attains both high power and torque with low fuel consumption and low
 polluting emissions. The new working cycle is an external compression type
 combustion cycle. In this cycle, part of the intake air (all of which is compressed
 in the power cylinders in conventional engines) is, selectively, compressed by at
 least one ancillary compressor 2. The temperature rise during compression can be
 10 suppressed by use of air coolers 10, 11, 12 which cool the intake air, and by a
 shorter compression stroke.

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new-cycle engine
 100¹ is thus:

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1. Depending upon the power requirements of the engine (e.g., differing load
 requirements), either intake air at atmospheric pressure or intake air that
 has been compressed by at least one ancillary compressor 2 and has had its
 temperature and pressure controlled by bypass systems and charge-air
 20 coolers, is drawn into the power cylinder 7 by the intake stroke of piston
 22.

2. (a) After the intake stroke is complete, the intake valve 16 (which can be
 single or multiple, 16, 16') is left open for a period of time after the piston
 25 22 has passed bottom dead center, which pumps part of the fresh air
 charge back into the intake manifold 13, 14. The intake valve 16, 16' is
 then closed at a point which action seals the cylinder 7, thus establishing
 the compression ratio of the engine.

(b) Alternatively, the intake valve 16, 16' is closed early, during the intake stroke, before the piston 22 has reached bottom dead center. The trapped air charge is then expanded to the full volume of the cylinder 7 and compression of the charge starts when the piston 22 returns to the point in the compression stroke at which the intake valve 16, 16' closed.

3. (a) During the compression stroke of piston 22, at the point the intake valve 16 closed, either in 2(a) or 2(b) operation, compression begins, producing a small compression ratio. This makes it possible to restrain the temperature rise during the compression stroke.

(b) During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valve 5 is closed and the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 on the compressor is, preferably opened so that the intake air is returned to the intake conduit 8 of the compressor 2 without being compressed. Shutter valve 3 can then direct the air charge around or through intercoolers 11 and 12. During this time, the engine pistons 22a-22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air through the compressor 2. This reduces compressor drive work and improves fuel economy.

(c) When more power is required, the charge density and pressure can be increased by closing air bypass valve (ABV) 6 causing compressor 2 to raise the air pressure and, alternatively, this can be accomplished by either cutting in a second stage of compression by compressor 1, as shown in Fig. 2, or by increasing the speed of compressor 2. At the same time, control valves 5 and 3 preferably, direct some or all of the air charge through one or more of intercoolers 10, 11, and 12 in order to increase charge-air density.

4. Compression continues, fuel is added, if not already present, the charge is ignited and combustion produces a large expansion of the gases against the piston 22 producing great energy in either mode 3(a), (b) or (c). This energy produces a high mean effective cylinder pressure and is converted into high torque and power, especially in mode (c).

Detailed Description of Operation of the engine 100¹ of Fig. 1

During the intake (1st) stroke of the piston 22 air flows through air conduits 15 from a manifold of air 13 or 14, which air (depending on power requirements) is either at atmospheric pressure or has been compressed to a higher pressure by compressor 2, through the intake valve 16 into the cylinder 7. During the intake stroke of piston 22 the intake valve 16 closes early (at point x). From this point, the cylinder 7 contents are expanded to the maximum volume of the cylinder. Then, during the compression (2nd) stroke, no compression takes place until the piston 22 has returned to the point x where the intake valve 16 was closed during the intake stroke. (At point x, the remaining displaced volume of the cylinder is divided by the volume of the combustion chamber, to establish the compression ratio of the engine.) Alternatively, during the intake (1st) stroke of piston 22, the intake valve 16 is held open through the intake stroke and past bottom dead center piston position, and through part of the compression (2nd) stroke for a significant distance, 10% or, to perhaps 50% or more of the compression stroke, thus pumping some of the charge-air back into intake manifold 13 or 14, and the intake valve 16 then closes to establish a low compression ratio in the cylinders of the engine. At the time of closure of intake valve 16, the density, temperature and pressure of the cylinder will be at approximate parity with the manifold 13 or 14 contents.

During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valves 5 and 3 are closed and the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 on the compressor is, preferably, opened so that the intake air is returned to the

intake conduit 8 of the compressor 2 without being compressed. During this time the engine pistons 22a - 22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air through the compressor 2. This reduces compressor drive work and improves fuel economy.

5 When medium torque and power is needed, such as highway driving or medium electric power generation, preferably the shutter valve 5 to compressor 2 is closed and the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 is closed also. This causes the atmospheric pressure intake air to cease re-circulating through the compressor 2 and the compressor 2 begins to compress the charge-air to a higher-than-
10 atmospheric pressure, while the closed shutter valves 5 and 3 direct the charge-air through conduits 104, 110, 111, and 121/122 bypassing the air coolers 10, 11 and 12, with the charge-air going directly to the manifolds 13 and 14 to power cylinders 7a - 7f where the denser, but hot, charge increases the mean effective cylinder pressure of the engine to create greater torque.

15 When more power is needed, such as when rapid acceleration is needed or for heavy-load electric power generation, preferably the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 is closed and the shutter valves 3 or 5 or both are opened. This causes the compressor 2 to compress all of the air charge. Shutter valves 3 or 5 or both then
20 supply (depending on the respective opened/closed conditions of valves 3 and 5), the conditioned air charge through conduits 105 or 104, to conduit 110, and then through conduits 111 or 112 to the manifolds, 13, 14 and to the cylinders 7a - 7f via one, two, or all three of the charge coolers 10, 11 and 12. The very dense cooled air charge when mixed with fuel and ignited and expanded beyond the
25 compression ratio of the engine produces great torque and power.

 When greater power is needed the charge-air density and weight can be increased by increasing the speed of the compressor 2 or by cutting in a second compressor as in Fig. 2, for a second stage of pre-compression. The latter can be
30 done by the engine control module 27 signaling air bypass valve (ABV) 6, Fig. 2,

to close to prevent re-circulation of part of the intake air into conduit 103 which negates, selectively, any second compression stage during light-load operation. At the time air density and pressure is increased, shutter valves 3 and 5 can direct part of all of the air charge through intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 in order to

5 condense the charge and lessen the increase in the charge temperature and pressure, both accomplished by the cooling of the charge. This increases the mean effective cylinder pressure during combustion for high torque and power.

The heavier the weight of the air charge and the denser the charge, the

10 earlier in the intake stroke (or the later in the compression stroke) the intake valve can be closed to establish a low compression ratio and retain power, and the less heat and pressure is developed during compression in the cylinder. In this 4-stroke engine the intake charge can be boosted in pressure by as much as 4-5 atmospheres and if the compression ratio is low enough, say 4:1 to 8:1 (higher for

15 diesel fuel), even spark-ignited there would be no problem with detonation. The expansion ratio should still be large, 14:1 would be a preferred expansion ratio for spark ignition, perhaps 19:1 for diesel operation.

The compression ratio is established by the displaced volume of the

20 cylinder 7 remaining after point x has been reached in the compression stroke (and intake valve 16 is closed) being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion ratio in all cases is greater than the compression ratio. The expansion ratio is established by dividing the total displaced volume of the cylinder by the volume of the combustion chamber.

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Fuel can be carbureted, or it can be injected in a throttle-body 56 (seen in Fig. 16), or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, injected into a pre-combustion chamber (Fig. 21) or, injected through the intake valve 16, or it may be injected directly into the combustion chamber. If injected, it should be at or

30 after the piston 22 has reached point x and the intake valve is closed. The fuel can

also be injected later, similar to diesel operation, and can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps into a pre-combustion chamber or directly into the combustion chamber or directly onto a glow plug. Some fuel can be injected after top dead center even continuously during the first part of the expansion stroke for a mostly constant pressure combustion process.

Ignition can be by compression (which may be assisted by a glow plug), or by electric spark. Spark ignition can take place before top dead center, as normally done, at top dead center or after top dead center.

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At an opportune time the air-fuel charge is ignited and the gases expand against the piston for the power (3rd) stroke. Near bottom dead center at the opportune time exhaust valve(s) 17 open and piston 22 rises in the scavenging (4th) stroke, efficiently scavenging the cylinder by positive displacement, after which exhaust valve(s) 17 closes.

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This completes one cycle of the 4-stroke engine.

The engine 100² of Fig. 2

Referring now to Fig. 2, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100² in which all of the cylinders 7a-7f (only two 7a, 7f of which are shown in a schematic drawing) and associated pistons 22a-22f operate in a 4-stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a-19f, respectively. An ancillary compressor 2 (herein depicted as a rotary compressor) supplies air which has been compressed, or allows delivery of air therethrough at atmospheric pressure, to manifolds 13 and 14 and to cylinders 7a-7f which cylinders operate in a 4-stroke cycle. A second ancillary compressor 1 is used, selectively, to boost the air pressure to compressor 2. Valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 and intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 are used, in the preferred embodiments, to control air charge density, weight,

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temperature and pressure. The intake valves 16a-16f are timed to control the compression ratio of the engine 100². The combustion chambers are sized to establish the expansion ratio of the engine.

5 The engine 100² shown in Fig. 2 is characterized by a more extensive expansion process, a low compression ratio and the capability of producing a combustion charge varying in weight from lighter-than-normal to heavier-than-normal, and capable of selectively providing a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than can the conventional arrangement of normal engines but having
10 similar or lower maximum cylinder pressure in comparison to conventional engines. An engine control module (ECM) 27 and variable valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 on conduits, as shown, provide a system for controlling the charge density, pressure, temperature, and the mean and peak pressure within the cylinder which allows greater fuel economy, production of greater torque and power at low RPM, with
15 low polluting emissions for both spark and compression-ignited engines. In alternate embodiments, a variable valve timing system can be used and, with a control system such as an engine control module (ECM) 27, can control the time of opening, and the time of closing of the intake valves 16 to further provide an improved management of conditions in the combustion chambers of cylinders 7a-
20 7f of the engine 100² to allow for a flatter torque curve and higher power, and with low levels of both fuel consumption and polluting emissions.

Brief Description of Operation of the engine 100² of Fig. 2

25 The engine 100² of this invention shown in Fig. 2 is a high efficiency engine that attains both high power and torque with low fuel consumption and low polluting emissions. The new working cycle is an external compression type combustion cycle. In this cycle, part of the intake air (all of which is compressed in the power cylinders in conventional engines) is compressed, selectively, by at least one ancillary compressor 1, 2. The temperature rise during compression can
30 be suppressed by use of air coolers 10, 11, 12, which cool the intake air, and by a

shorter compression stroke.

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new-cycle engine 100² is thus:

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1. Depending upon the power requirements of the engine (e.g., differing load requirements), either intake air at atmospheric pressure or intake air that has been compressed by at least one ancillary compressor and has had its temperature and pressure adjusted by bypass systems and charge-air coolers, is drawn into the power cylinder 7 by the intake stroke of piston 22.
2. (a) After the intake stroke is complete, the intake valve 16 (which can be single or multiple) is left open for a period of time after the piston 22 has passed bottom dead center which pumps part of the fresh air charge back into the intake manifold 13,14. The intake valve 16 is then closed at a point which action seals cylinder 7, thus establishing the compression ratio of the engine.
- 20 (b) Alternatively, the intake valve 16 is closed early, during the intake stroke, before the piston 22 has reached bottom dead center. The trapped air charge is then expanded to the full volume of the cylinder 7 and compression of the charge starts when the piston 22 reaches the point in the compression stroke at which the intake valve 16 closed.
- 25 3. (a) During the compression stroke of piston 22, at the point the intake valve 16 closed, either in 2(a) or 2(b) operation, compression begins, producing a small compression ratio. This makes it possible to lessen the temperature rise during the compression stroke.

(b) During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valves 3 and 5 are closed and the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 to both compressors 1 and 2 are, preferably, opened so that the intake air is returned to the intake conduits 110 and 103 of the compressors 2 and 1 without being compressed. During this time, the engine pistons 22a-22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air past the compressor(s). This reduces compressor drive work and further improves fuel economy.

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(c) When greater power is required, the charge density and pressure can be increased by closing air bypass valve (ABV) 4 causing compressor 2 to raise the charge-air pressure and, in addition, by either cutting in the second stage of compression by compressor 1 in the same manner, that of closing air bypass valve ABV 6, or by increasing the speed of compressor 2 or of both compressors. At the same time, shutter valves 3 and 5 would be opened to direct some or all of the air charge through intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 in order to increase charge-air density.

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4. Compression continues, fuel is added if not already present, the charge is ignited and combustion produces a large expansion of the gases against piston 22 producing great energy in either mode 3(a), (b) or (c). This energy produces a high mean effective cylinder pressure and is converted into high torque and power, especially in mode (c).

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Detailed Description of Operation of the engine 100² of Fig. 2

During the intake (1st) stroke of the piston 22 air flows through air conduits 15 from the manifold 13 or 14 of air which air (depending on power requirements) is either at atmospheric pressure or has been compressed to a higher pressure by compressor 2 and/or compressor 1, through the intake valve 16 into

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the cylinder 7. During the intake stroke of piston 22 the intake valve 16 closes at point x sealing cylinder 7. From this point the air charge is expanded to the maximum volume of the cylinder. Then during the compression (2nd) stroke, no compression takes place until the piston 22 has returned to the point x where the intake valve 16 was closed during the intake stroke. (At point x, the remaining displaced volume of the cylinder is divided by the volume of the combustion chamber, to establish the compression ratio of the engine.) Alternatively, during the intake (1st) stroke of piston 22, the intake valve 16 is held open through the intake stroke and passed bottom dead center, and through part of the compression (2nd) stroke for a significant distance, 10% or, to perhaps 50% or more of the compression stroke, thus pumping some of the charge-air back into intake manifold 13 or 14, and the intake valve 16 then closes, sealing cylinder 7, to establish a low compression ratio in the cylinders of the engine. At the time of closure of intake valve 16, the density, temperature and pressure of the cylinder 7 contents will be approximately the same as that of the air charge in the intake manifolds 13 and 14.

During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valves 3 and 5 are closed and the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 to both compressors 1 and 2 are, preferably opened so that the intake air is returned to the intake conduits 110 and 103 of the compressors 2 and 1 without being compressed. During this time the engine pistons 22a - 22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air past the compressor(s). This reduces compressor drive work and further improves fuel economy.

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When medium torque and power is needed, such as highway driving or medium electric power generation, preferably the shutter valves 3 and 5 are closed and the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 are closed. This causes the atmospheric pressure intake air to cease re-circulating through the compressor 2 and 1 and both compressors begin to compress the charge-air to a higher-than-atmospheric

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pressure, while the closed shutter valves 3 and 5 direct the charge-air through conduits 104, 110, 111, and 121/122 bypassing the air coolers 10, 11 and 12, in Fig. 2, with the charge-air going directly to the manifold 13 and 14 and to power cylinders 7a - 7f where the denser, but hot, charge increases the mean effective
 5 cylinder pressure of the engine to create greater torque and power.

When more power is needed, such as when rapid acceleration is needed or for heavy-load electric power generation, preferably the air bypass valve (ABV) 4 is closed and the shutter valve 3 is opened. This causes the compressor 2 to
 10 compress all of the air charge and shutter valve 3 directs the air charge through conduits 112 and 113 and the compressed charge-air is supplied to the manifolds 13 and 14 and to the cylinders 7a - 7f via the charge coolers 11 and 12. For even greater power the shutter valve 5 is opened and the air bypass valve 6 is closed and compressor 1 begins a second stage of compression, and all of the air charge
 15 is now directed through intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 for high charge density. The very dense cooled air charge when mixed with fuel and ignited and expanded beyond the compression ratio of the engine produces great torque and power.

The heavier the weight of the air charge and the denser the charge, the
 20 earlier (or later) the intake valve can be closed to establish a low compression ratio and retain power, and the less heat and pressure is developed during compression in the cylinder. In this 4-stroke engine the intake charge can be boosted in pressure by as much as 4-5 atmospheres and if the engine's compression ratio is low enough, say 4:1 to 8:1 (higher for diesel fuel), even
 25 spark-ignited there would be no problem with detonation. The expansion ratio would still be very large, 14:1 would be a preferable expansion ratio for spark ignition, perhaps 19:1 for diesel operation.

The compression ratio is established by the displaced volume of the cylinder 7 remaining after point x has been reached in the compression stroke (and intake valve 16 is closed) being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion ratio in all cases is greater than the compression ratio.

- 5 The expansion ratio is established by dividing the total displaced volume of the cylinder by the volume of the combustion chamber.

Fuel can be carbureted, or it can be injected in a throttle-body 56 (seen in Fig. 16), or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, injected into a pre-combustion chamber as in Fig. 21 or, injected through the intake valve 16, or it may be injected directly into the combustion chamber. If injected, it should be at or after the piston 22 has reached point x and the intake valve is closed. The fuel can also be injected later and in the case of diesel operation can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps into a pre-combustion chamber or
15 directly into the combustion chamber or directly onto a glow plug.

At an opportune time the air-fuel charge is ignited and the gases expand against the piston for the power (3rd) stroke. Near bottom dead center at the opportune time exhaust valve(s) 17 open and piston 22 rises in the scavenging
20 (4th) stroke, efficiently scavenging the cylinder by positive displacement, after which the exhaust valve(s) closes.

This completes one cycle of the 4-stroke engine.

25 **The engine 100³ of Fig. 3**

Referring now to Fig. 3, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100³ in which all of the cylinders 7a-7f (only one of which is shown in a sectional view) and associated pistons 22a-22f operate in a 4-stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used for producing power to a common
30 crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a-19f, respectively. An ancillary

reciprocating compressor 1 and an ancillary rotary compressor 2 supply pressurized charge air which has been compressed, or allow deliver of air therethrough at atmospheric pressure, to manifolds 13, 14 and to cylinders 7a-7f, which cylinders operate in a 4-stroke cycle. Valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 and intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 are used, in the preferred embodiments, to control air charge density, weight, temperature and pressure. The intake valves 16 are timed to control the compression ratio of the engine 100³. The combustion chambers are sized to establish the expansion ratio of the engine.

The engine 100³ shown in Fig. 3 is characterized by a more extensive expansion process, a low compression ratio and the capability of producing a combustion charge varying in weight from lighter-than-normal to heavier-than-normal, and capable of selectively providing a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than can the conventional arrangement of normal engines but having similar or lower maximum cylinder pressure in comparison to conventional engines. An engine control module (ECM) 27 and variable valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 on conduits, as shown, provide a system for controlling the charge density, pressure, temperature, and the mean and peak pressure within the power cylinder 7 which allows greater fuel economy, torque and power at low RPM, with low polluting emissions for both spark and compression-ignited engines. In alternate embodiments, a variable valve timing system can be used and, with a control system such as an engine control module (ECM) 27, can control the time of opening and the time of closing of the intake valves 16 to further provide an improved management of conditions in the combustion chambers of cylinders 7a-7f of the engine 100³ to allow for a flatter torque curve and high power and with low levels of both fuel consumption and polluting emissions.

Brief Description of Operation of the engine 100³ of Fig. 3

The engine 100³ of this invention shown in Fig. 3 is a high efficiency engine that attains both high power and torque with low fuel consumption and low

polluting emissions. The new working cycle is an external compression type combustion cycle. In this cycle part of the intake air (all of which is compressed in the power cylinders in conventional engines) is selectively compressed by at least one ancillary compressor 1, 2. The temperature rise during compression can
 5 be suppressed by use of air coolers 10, 11, 12, which cool the intake air, and by a shorter compression stroke.

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new-cycle engine
 100³ is thus:

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1. Depending upon the power requirements of the engine (e.g., differing load requirements), either intake air at atmospheric pressure or intake air that has been compressed by at least one ancillary compressor and has had its temperature and pressure adjusted by bypass systems and charge-air
 15 coolers, is drawn into the power cylinder 7 by the intake stroke of piston 22.
2. (a) After the intake stroke is complete the intake valve 16 (which can be single or multiple, 16, 16') is left open for a period of time after the piston
 20 22 has passed bottom dead center which pumps part of the fresh air charge back into the intake manifolds 13, 14. The intake valve 16 is then closed at a point which seals cylinder 7, thus establishing the compression ratio of the engine.
- 25 (b) Alternatively, the intake valve 16 is closed early, during the intake stroke, before the piston 22 has reached bottom dead center. The trapped air charge is then expanded to the full volume of the cylinder 7 and compression of the charge starts when the piston 22 reaches the point in the compression stroke at which the intake valve 16 closed.

3. (a) During the compression stroke of piston 22, at the point the intake valve 16 closed, either in 2(a) or 2(b) operation, compression begins, producing a small compression ratio. This makes it possible to lessen the temperature rise during the compression stroke.

(b) During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valves 3 and 5 are closed and the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 on both compressors 1 and 2 are, preferably, opened so that the intake air is returned to the intake conduits 110 and 8 of the compressors 1 and 2 without being compressed. During this time the engine pistons 22a-22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air past the compressor(s). This reduces compressor drive work and further improves fuel economy.

(c) When greater power is required, the charge density and pressure can be increased by closing air bypass valve (ABV) 4 causing compressor 1 to raise the charge-air pressure and, in addition, by either cutting in the second stage of compression by compressor 2, if needed, in the same manner, that of closing ABV valve 6, or by increasing the speed of compressors 1 or 2, or both. At the same time, shutter valves 3 and 5 would direct some or all of the air charge through intercoolers 10, 11, and 12 in order to increase charge-air density.

4. Compression continues, fuel is added if not already present, the charge is ignited and combustion produces a large expansion of the gases against piston 22 producing great energy in either mode 3(a), (b) or (c). This energy produces a high mean effective cylinder pressure and is converted into high torque and power, especially in mode (c).

Detailed Description of Operation of the engine 100³ of Fig. 3

During the intake (1st) stroke of the piston 22 air flows through air conduits 15 from the manifold 13 or 14 of air which air (depending on power requirements) is either at atmospheric pressure or has been compressed to a higher pressure by compressor 1 or 2 through the intake valve 16 into the cylinder 7. During the intake stroke of piston 22 the intake valve 16 closes (at point x). From this point the cylinder contents are expanded to the maximum volume of the cylinder. Then during the compression (2nd) stroke, no compression takes place until the piston 22 has returned to the point x where the intake valve 16 was closed, sealing the cylinder 7, during the intake stroke. (At point x, the remaining displaced volume of the cylinder is divided by the volume of the combustion chamber, to establish the compression ratio of the engine.) Alternatively, during the intake (1st) stroke of piston 22, the intake valve 16 can be held open through the intake stroke passed bottom dead center, and through part of the compression (2nd) stroke for a significant distance, 10% to perhaps 50% or more of the compression stroke pumping some of the charge-air back into intake manifold, and the intake valve 16, 16' then closes to establish a low compression ratio in the cylinders of the engine.

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During light-load operation, such as in vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the shutter valves 3 and 5 are closed and the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 on both compressors 1 and 2 are, preferably, opened so that the intake air is returned to the intake conduits 110 and 8 of the compressors 1 and 2 without being compressed. During this time the engine pistons 22a-22f are drawing in naturally aspirated air past the compressor(s). This reduces compressor drive work and further improves fuel economy.

When medium torque and power is needed, such as highway driving or medium electric power generation, preferably the shutter valve 3 to compressor 1

is opened, the air bypass valve (ABV) 4 is closed and ABV 6 remains open. This causes the atmospheric pressure intake air to cease re-circulating through the compressor 1; and the compressor 1, alone, begins to compress the charge-air to a higher-than-atmospheric pressure, while the closed shutter valves 3 and 5 directs the charge-air through conduits 104, 110, 111, and 121/122 bypassing the air coolers 10, 11 and 12, in Fig. 3, with the charge-air going directly to the manifolds 13 and 14 and to power cylinders 7a-7f where the denser heated charge increases the mean effective cylinder pressure of the engine to create greater torque and power.

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When more power is needed, such as when rapid acceleration is needed or for heavy-load electric power generation, preferably the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 are closed and the shutter valves 3 and 5 are opened on both compressors. This causes the compressors 1 and 2 to compress all of the air charge and shutter valves 3 and 5 direct the air charge away from conduit 8 and through the compressors 1 and 2, and the compressed charge-air is then supplied through conduits 105, 106, 110, 112, 113, 114 and 115 to the manifolds 13 and 14 and to the cylinders 7a-7f via the charge coolers 10, 11 and 12. The very dense cooled air charge when mixed with fuel and ignited and expanded beyond the compression ratio of the engine produces great torque and power.

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The heavier the weight of the air charge and the denser the charge, the earlier in the intake stroke (or the later in the compression stroke) the intake valve can be closed to establish a low compression ratio and retain power, and the less heat and pressure is developed during compression in the cylinder. In this 4-stroke engine the intake charge can be boosted in pressure by as much as 4-5 atmospheres and if the compression ratio is low enough, say 4:1 to 8:1 (higher for diesel fuel), even spark-ignited there would be no problem with detonation. The expansion ratio would still be very large, 14:1 would be a preferred expansion ratio for spark ignition, perhaps 19:1 for diesel operation.

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The compression ratio is established by the displaced volume of the cylinder 7 remaining after point x has been reached in the compression stroke (and intake valve 16 is closed) being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion in all cases is greater than the compression ratio. The expansion ratio is established by dividing the total displaced volume of the cylinder by the volume of the combustion chamber.

Fuel can be carbureted, or it can be injected in a throttle-body, or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, injected into a pre-combustion chamber, Fig. 21, or, injected through the intake valve 16, or it may be injected directly into the combustion chamber. If injected, it should be at or after the piston 22 has reached point x and the intake valve is closed. The fuel can also be injected later and in the case of diesel operation can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps into a pre-combustion chamber or directly into the combustion chamber or directly onto a glow plug.

At an opportune time the air-fuel charge is ignited and the gases expand the piston 22 for the power (3rd) stroke. Near bottom dead center at the opportune time exhaust valve(s) 17 open and piston 22 rises in the scavenging (4th) stroke, efficiently scavenging the cylinder by positive displacement, after which exhaust valve(s) 17 closes.

This completes one cycle of the 4-stroke engine.

The engine 100⁴ of Fig. 4

Referring now to Fig. 4, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100⁴ having two atmospheric air intakes 8 and 9 and corresponding intake conduits 15-A, 15-B, in which all of the cylinders (only one (7) of which is shown in a sectional view) 7a-7f and associated pistons 22a-22f

operate in a 4-stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a-19f, respectively. A compressor 2, in this figure a Lysholm type rotary compressor, is shown which, with air conduits as shown, supplies pressurized air to one or more cylinder intake valves 16-A. An air inlet 8 and an ancillary air inlet 9 and inlet conduits 15-A, 15-B selectably supply air charge at atmospheric pressure or air which has been compressed to a higher pressure to separate intake valves 16-A and 16-B opening to the same cylinder 7a-7f (for example, shown here opening to cylinder 7f). Intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 and control valves 3, 5 and 6 are used, in the preferred embodiments, to control the air charge density, weight, temperature and pressure. The intake valves 16a-B - 16f-B which receive air through manifold 14-B and intake conduits 15a-B to 15f-B, are timed to control the compression ratio of the engine 100⁴. The combustion chambers are sized to establish the expansion ratio of the engine. Because of noticeable similarities between the engine 100⁴ of Fig. 4 and that of Fig. 7 (where the auxiliary air inlet 9 system has been shown in phantom, for informational value), reference will be made as deemed helpful to Fig. 7 for certain common components.

The engine 100⁴ shown in Fig. 4 is characterized by a more extensive expansion process, a low compression ratio and capable of producing a combustion charge varying in weight from lighter-than-normal to heavier-than-normal and capable of selectively providing a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than can the conventional arrangement in normal engines with similar or lower maximum cylinder pressure in comparison to conventional engines. Engine control module (ECM) 27 (refer, for example to Fig. 7) and variable valves 3, 5, and 6 on conduits, as shown, provide a system for controlling the charge pressure, density, temperature, and mean and peak pressure within the cylinder which allows greater fuel economy, production of greater power and torque at all RPM, with low polluting emissions for both spark and compression ignited engines. In alternate embodiments, a variable valve timing system with the ECM 27 can also

Brief Description of Operation of the engine 100⁴ shown in Fig. 4

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used in the engine of Fig. 4 is the compressor 2 - shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 7, for example, as a Lysholm rotary type) between air inlet 8 and manifold 13, 14, and can be intercooled. The temperature, pressure, amount and point of injection of the secondary charge, if added, is adjusted to produce the desired results. An intake valve disabler (there are several on the market, for example, Eaton Corp. and Cadillac), in preferred embodiments, may be used to disable intake valve 16-A when light-load operation does not require a high mean effective cylinder pressure. Alternatively, the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 is opened to re-circulate the charge-air back through the compressor 2 in order to relieve the compressor of compression work during light-load operation.

Alternatively, a one-way valve, one type of which is shown as 26 in Fig. 6 can be utilized to provide a constant or a variable "pressure ratio" in the cylinder 7, while improving swirl turbulence. In this alternate method of operation the intake valve 16-A would close very late and valve 26 would close only when the pressure in the cylinder 7 nearly equates or exceeds the pressure in conduit 15-A. Thus, the pressure in conduit 15-A, controlled by compressor speed, along with valves 3, 5 and 6 (and valve 4 in Fig. 7) would regulate the pressure, density, temperature and turbulence of the combustion process. A spring-retracted disc type, metal or ceramic, or any other type of automatic valve could replace valve 26.

Another alternate method of providing a low compression ratio, with a large expansion ratio and reduced polluting emissions is thus:

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The air pressure supplied to intake runner-conduit 15-A is produced at an extremely high level, and intake valve 16-A is, in alternate embodiments, replaced by a fast-acting, more controllable valve such as but not limited to a high speed solenoid valve (not shown), which valve is, preferably, either mechanically, electrically or vacuum operated under the control of an engine control module

(ECM). In such an embodiment, a smaller, denser, temperature-adjusted, high-pressure charge, with or without accompanying fuel, can, selectively, be injected, tangentially oriented, much later in the compression stroke, or even during the combustion process, in order to increase charge density, to reduce peak and overall combustion temperatures, and to create the desired charge swirl turbulence in the combustion chamber(s).

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new-cycle engine 100⁴ is thus:

1. Depending upon the power requirements of the engine (e.g., differing load requirements), either intake air at atmospheric pressure or intake air that has been compressed by one compressor (not shown) and has had its temperature adjusted by bypass systems and charge-air coolers (not shown) is drawn into the cylinder 7 (intake stroke) through air inlet 9, manifold 14-B, intake conduits 15-B, and intake valves 16a-B-16f-B by intake stroke of piston 22.
2. (a) After the intake stroke is complete the intake valve 16-B (which can be single or multiple), is left open for a period of time after the piston 22 has passed bottom dead center, which pumps part of the fresh air charge back into the intake manifold 14-B.
- (b) Alternatively, the intake valve 16-B is closed early, during the intake stroke before the piston reaches bottom dead center. The trapped air charge is then expanded to the full volume of the cylinder 7.
3. (a) The compression (2nd) stroke now begins and, at the point the intake valve 16-B is closed to seal cylinder 7 in either 2(a) or 2(b) operation, compression begins (for a small compression ratio). This makes it possible to lessen the temperature rise during the compression stroke.

- 5 (b) When greater power is required a secondary compressed, temperature-adjusted air charge is injected into the cylinder 7 by intake valve 16-A which opens and closes quickly during the compression stroke at the point at which the intake valve 16-B which introduced the primary air charge closes, or later in the stroke, to produce a more dense, temperature controlled charge in order to provide the torque and power desired of the engine.
- 10 (c) Alternatively, when greater power is required, the secondary air charge can be increased in density and weight by causing shutter valves 5 and 3 to direct all or part of the air charge through one or more of intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 to increase the charge density and/or by increasing compressor speed or by cutting in a second stage of auxiliary compression, the latter
- 15 two actions thereby pumping in more air on the backside. Alternatively, the timing of the closing of intake valve 16-B on either the inlet or compression stroke can be altered temporarily to retain a larger charge, and at the same time the timing of intake valve 16-A can be temporarily altered to open and close earlier during the compression stroke to provide
- 20 a larger dense, temperature-adjusted air charge.
4. Compression continues, fuel is added if not present, the charge is ignited and combustion produces a large expansion of the combusted gases against the piston 22 producing great energy in either mode 3(a), (b), or
- 25 (c). This energy is absorbed and turned into high torque and power, especially in mode (c).
5. Near bottom dead center of the piston, exhaust valves 17a-17f, 17a'-17f' open and the cylinder 7 is efficiently scavenged by the (4th) stroke of
- 30 piston 22, after which valve(s) 17 close.

Detailed Description of the Operation of the engine 100⁴ of Fig. 4

During the intake (1st) stroke of the piston 22 low pressure air flows through air conduit 15-B from the atmospheric air inlet 9 through manifold 14-B of air at atmospheric pressure or which has been boosted in pressure (or, alternatively, the low pressure air can be supplied by a pressure regulator valve 25 and conduit 15-B from compressed air line 15-A as shown in Fig. 5), through an intake valve 16-B into the cylinder 7. During the intake stroke of piston 22, the intake valve 16-B closes (point x). From this point the air charge in the cylinder is expanded to the maximum volume of the cylinder. Then, during the compression (2nd) stroke, no compression of the charge takes place until the piston 22 returns to point x where the inlet valve was closed. (At point x, the remaining displaced volume of the cylinder is divided by the volume of the combustion chamber, establishing the compression ratio of the engine.) At any point in the compression stroke of piston 22 at the time or after the piston 22 reaches point x a second inlet valve 16-A is, selectively, opened in order to inject a secondary pressurized air charge at a temperature, density and pressure deemed advantageous to the engine load, torque demand, fuel economy and emissions characteristics desired. Alternatively, during the intake of charge-air by intake valve 16-B, the intake valve 16-B is held open past bottom dead center for a significant distance, 10% to perhaps 50% or more of the compression stroke, thus pumping some of the charge back into the intake manifold 14-B, and then closed to establish a low compression ratio in the cylinder. During the compression stroke, at or after the time intake valve 16-B is closed, a secondary charge of high pressure, temperature-adjusted air which has been compressed by compressor 2 is, selectively, injected by a second intake valve 16-A, which opens and closes quickly, into the same cylinder 7. Alternatively, when greater torque and power are needed, the density of the secondary charge-air is greatly increased by increasing the speed of the primary compressor 2 or by cutting in another stage of compression, as in item 1, Fig. 7, and/or by routing the air charge through

intercoolers.

For light-load operation a shut-off valve, or a valve disabler 31 (such as shown in Fig. 7) on the high pressure intake valve 16-A, preferably, temporarily
 5 restrains the intake air, or holds the valve closed. This would add to the fuel economy of the engine. Alternatively, during light-load operation the shutter valve 5 is closed and the air bypass valve ABV 6 is opened so that part or all of the air pumped by compressor 2 would be returned to the inlet conduit of the compressor 2 for a low, or no pressure boost. Therefore, when secondary intake
 10 valve 16-A opens, the pressure of the air in conduit 15-A is approximately the same as, or not much greater than that from the initial charge. In an alternate embodiment, an ancillary automatic valve 26, Fig. 6, is arranged, as shown in Fig. 6, to prevent any back-flow of charge-air into conduit 15-A if the cylinder pressure should exceed the pressure in conduit 15-A before intake valve 16-A
 15 closed during the compression stroke of piston 22.

If an ancillary one-way valve (see valve 26 of Fig. 6) is present, the pressure ratio in cylinder 7 can be fully controlled by adjusting the pressure of the charge air passing through intake valve 16-A. The pressure ratio can then be
 20 controlled by valves 3, 5, 6 and by compressor speed and any throttle valve that may be present. In the use of valve 26, intake valve 16-A must be kept open until very late in the compression stroke, perhaps until piston 22 nears or reaches top dead center.

25 Fuel can be carbureted in Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B, Fig. 5, Fig. 7 and Fig. 33, injected in a throttle body 56 (seen in Fig. 16), or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, injected into a pre-combustion chamber or, injected through intake valves 16-A, 16-B, (16-B only if 16-B does not remain open past bottom dead center), or it may be injected directly into the combustion chamber at point x
 30 during the intake stroke, (during the intake stroke only if intake valve 16-B closes

before bottom dead center), or at the time or after the piston 22 has reached point x in the compression stroke. The fuel can be injected with or without accompanying air. In the case of diesel operation, fuel can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps into a pre-combustion chamber or directly
 5 into the combustion chamber or directly onto a glow plug.

After the temperature-and-density-adjusting-air charge has been injected, if used, compression of the charge continues and with fuel present, is ignited at the opportune time for the expansion (3rd and power) stroke. (The compression
 10 ratio is established by the displaced volume of the cylinder remaining after point x has been reached on the compression stroke, being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion ratio is determined by dividing the cylinders total clearance volume by the volume of the combustion chamber.) Now the fuel-air charge is ignited and the power, (3rd) stroke of piston 22 takes place as the
 15 combusted gases expand. Near bottom dead center of the power stroke the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' opens and the cylinder 7 is efficiently scavenged on the fourth piston stroke by positive displacement, after which exhaust valve(s) 17 closes.

20 This completes one cycle of the 4-stroke engine.

It can be seen that the later the point in the compression stroke that point x is reached (the earlier or later the inlet valve is closed), the lower is the compression ratio of the engine and the less the charge is heated during
 25 compression. It can also be seen that the later the temperature-density-adjusting charge is introduced, the less work will be required of the engine to compress the charge, the later part of which has received some compression already by an ancillary compressor 2.

The engine 100^{4-B} of Fig. 4-B

Referring now to Fig. 4-B there is shown a six cylinder 4-stroke internal combustion engine similar in construction to the engine of Fig. 4 with the exception that the engine of Fig. 4-B is so constructed and arranged that

5 compressor 2 receives charge-air from manifold 14-B through opening 8-B (shown in Fig. 7) and conduit 8 which air enters through common air intake duct 9. Intake runners 15a-C to 15f-C distributes the atmospheric pressure air to the intake valves 16-B of each power cylinder. This arrangement allows the provision of air to intake valves 16-A and 16-B at different pressure levels since

10 the charge-air from conduits 15-A is selectively pressurized by compressor 2. The operation of the engine of Fig. 4-B is the same as that of the engine of Fig. 4.

The engine 100⁵ of Fig. 5

Referring now to Fig. 5, there is shown a six cylinder 4-stroke internal combustion engine 100⁵ similar to the engines 100⁴ of Fig. 4 and engine 100^{4-B} of

15 Fig. 4-B with the exception that there are shown alternative ways that the dual atmospheric air inlets can be eliminated, preferably by providing the low pressure charge-air to intake valves 16-B by way of conduits 15a-D to 15f-D all leading from the common air inlet conduit 8, or from an optional air manifold 35-M, situated between inlet conduit 8 and the inlet of conduits 15a-D to 15f-D, which

20 manifold would also supply air to compressor 2 through conduit 8-A. Providing the low pressure charge-air to intake valve 16-B by way of conduit 15-D, or by conduit 15-B (shown in phantom) would eliminate a second air filter and air induction system and would work well with either the first system described

25 which involves closing the primary intake valve 16-B during the intake stroke of the piston 22 or alternatively closing the primary intake valve 16-B during the 2nd or compression stroke. Alternatively, as shown, the low pressure charge-air can be supplied by placing a pressure-dropping valve 25 in conduit 15-B routed for leading from the pressurized air conduit 15 (15-A) to the low pressure cylinder

30 inlet valve 16-B in order to drop the inducted air pressure down to the level that

could be controlled by the system of compression ratio adjustment described herein, preferably down to 1.5 to 2.0 atmospheres (absolute pressure which is a boost of 0.5 to 1.0 atmosphere) and perhaps down to atmospheric pressure.

5 The operation of the engine 100⁵ of Fig. 5 would be the same as the operation of the engine 100⁴ of Fig. 4 although the low pressure primary air supply is supplied differently. Because of noticeable similarities between the engine 100⁵ of Fig. 5 and that of Fig. 7, reference will be made as deemed helpful to Fig. 7 for certain common components.

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During light-load operation of this 4-stroke cycle engine (Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B and Fig. 5) such as vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the secondary air charge is, alternatively, eliminated by disabling high pressure intake valve 16-A temporarily (there are several valve disabling systems available, e.g., Eton, Cadillac, etc.) or air can be shut off to intake valve 16-A and the engine still produce greater fuel economy and power than do conventional engines.

Alternatively and preferably, during light load operation such as vehicle cruising, the compressor 2 can be relieved of any compression work by closing the shutter valve 5 and opening the air bypass valve 6 which circulates the air pumped back into the compressor 2 and then the air in intake conduits 15-A and 15-B or 15-D are approximately equal. Therefore, no supercharging takes place during this time. In one embodiment, automatic valve 26, Fig. 6, prevents back-flow of air during the compression stroke if compression pressure in the cylinder approximates or exceeds the pressure in conduit 15-A before the intake valve 16-A closes.

For increased power the secondary air charge may be increased by shutter valves 3 and 5 being preferably opened to direct the air charge to intercoolers 10, 11 and 12, which makes the charge denser and/or by increasing the speed of

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the air present in cylinder 7 whether it enters through valve 16-B, 16-A or both, and by the compression ratio.

Any type of automatic valve can be used for item 26, perhaps a spring-retracted disc type which can be made of metal or ceramics.

The engine 100⁷ of Fig. 7

Referring now to Fig. 7, there is shown a schematic drawing of a six cylinder engine 100⁷ operating in a 4-stroke cycle. The engine is similar in structure and operation to the 4-stroke engine of Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B and Fig. 5 and shows alternative air induction systems utilizing air intake 9 (in phantom) or air intake 8', or both. Fig. 7 also shows three intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 and dual manifolds 13 and 14 plus alternative intake manifold 14-B. The need for dual atmospheric air intake (8' and 9 in Fig. 7) can be eliminated by providing air from port 8-B of manifold 14-B directly to air intake conduit 8' shown schematically, in Fig. 7.

One alternate air induction system shown in Fig. 7 supplies unpressurized charge-air to intake valve 16-B of the engine of Fig. 4-B and of Fig. 7 by providing atmospheric pressure air to the intake runners 15a-C to 15f-C leading from manifold 14-B in Fig. 4-B and Fig. 7 which receives atmospheric air through induction port 9, and then distributes the unpressurized air to intake valves 16-B of each power cylinder. Then, high pressure air enters through intake valve 16-A after piston 22 has reached point x during the compression stroke (the point in which intake valve 16-B closes and compression begins). Intake valve 16-A then closes, compression continues, fuel is added if not present and the charge is ignited near top dead center (TDC) and the power (3rd) stroke occurs.

A second alternate air induction system shown in Fig. 7 supplies low pressure intake air as also shown in Fig. 5 of alternatively receiving air from high pressure conduit 15-A through conduit 15-B with the optional pressure reducing valve 25, (shown in phantom in Fig. 5 and Fig. 7). The secondary high pressure air charge is injected by intake valve 16-A at the same time or later that the piston 22 reaches the point at which the intake valve 16-B closes and compression begins. Intake valve 16-A then quickly closes, compression continues, fuel is added if not present and the charge is ignited at the appropriate place for the power (3rd) stroke.

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A third alternate and preferred air induction system shown in Fig. 7 supplies the primary air charge to intake valve 16-B as follows: Charge-air which has been pressurized to a low pressure by compressor 1, perhaps from 0.3 Bar to as much as 2 Bar or more, can selectively (and intermittently or continuously) be supplied to low pressure intake valves 16-B of the engine of Fig. 7 by way of conduit 32 leading from conduit 110 to the intake valves (16a-B through 16f-B) which conduit receives charge-air at atmospheric pressure or which has been pressurized and in any case has had its temperature optimized, all controlled by compressor 1 and intercooler 10 with the charge-air paths being controlled by valves 5 and 6 with the corresponding conduits. In this case the valve 33 is optional. After cylinder 7 has been charged and the compression ratio established by the closing of intake valve 16-B during the first or second stroke of piston 22, the high pressure intake valve 16-A opens on the compression stroke at the point which valve 16-B closes, to inject the dense, temperature adjusted air charge and then it closes, as compression continues and near top dead center, fuel being present, the charge is ignited and the power (3rd) stroke occurs. The use of this system also eliminates the need for dual atmosphere air intakes.

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A fourth alternate air induction system shown in Fig. 7 supplies the primary charge-air to the low pressure intake valves 16-B by having charge-air coming selectively from intake system 9, manifold 14-B and intake runners 15-C (shown in phantom) or from conduit 32 which would direct air to power cylinder 7 at whatever level of pressure and temperature was needed at any particular time. With this arrangement, opening valve 33 at such a time that compressor 1 was compressing the charge passing through it would have the effect of increasing the density of the primary charge-air which in this case could also have its temperature as well as its pressure adjusted by compressor 1 and control valves 5 and 6. A one-way valve 34 would prevent the higher pressure air escaping through conduit 15-C. When less power was needed compressor 1 could be "waste gated" by opening, partially or completely control valve 6 and closing shutter valve 5. Alternatively, valve 33 could be closed by the engine control module (ECM) and the primary charge-air would be drawn into cylinder 7 at atmospheric pressure through intake duct 9 (shown in phantom). The piston 22 now begins its second stroke, the intake valve 16-B now closes, if not closed on the intake stroke, to establish the compression ratio and in all cases the heavy secondary charge enters through valve 16-A which opens at the time, or after, piston 22 has reached the point where intake valve 16-B had closed, valve 16-A then quickly closes, compression continues and the charge is ignited near top dead center and the power (3rd) stroke occurs.

With this fourth alternate air induction system the low pressure intake valve 16-B can (a) receive charge-air at atmospheric pressure or (b) can receive charge-air which has been compressed and cooled through conduit 32 or conduit 15-B. The high pressure intake valve 16-A (which opens at the time, or later, at which compression begins) can receive charge-air which (a) has been compressed and cooled in a single stage by compressor 1 or compressor 2, (b) has been compressed and cooled in two stages or more to a very high density or (c) which has had its temperature and pressure adjusted by control valves 5 and 6, all in

order to provide better management of combustion characteristics in regard to power, torque and fuel economy requirements and in regard to emissions control. By incorporating an optional one-way valve (see valve 26 shown in Fig. 6), the engines of Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B, Fig. 5 and Fig. 7 could have either a constant or a variable pressure ratio, the charge density, pressure, temperature and turbulence and the time of closing of valve 26 being controlled by valves 3, 5 and 6 and by compressor speed and by any throttle valve present in engines having one stage of pre-compression, and by the addition of valve 4, in engines having two stages of pre-compression. In either case the intake valve 16-A should be held open very late in the compression stroke, perhaps to near top dead center of piston 22.

One advantage to compressing the charge-air going to the low pressure intake valve 16-B in addition to highly compressing the secondary air charge is that during much of the duty cycle of such engines the charge density could be dramatically increased while keeping peak pressures and temperatures low, for high mean effective cylinder pressure. This system could provide all power necessary for vehicular travel in hilly country with perhaps the high pressure intake valves 16-A being deactivated by a valve deactivator indicated by 31 in Fig. 7, or by compressor 2 and/or compressor 1 being partially or wholly bypassed by control valves 3 and 4 and/or control valves 5 and 6 to vary the pressure and temperature going into manifolds 13 and 14 and then to intake valves 16-A. For utmost power, the valve deactivators could be turned off or eliminated.

Also shown in Fig. 7 is a suggested engine control system consisting of an engine control module (ECM) 27, two shutter valves 3 and 5, two air bypass valves 4 and 6, the optional pressure reducing valves 25 (25a-25f) on air conduits 15-B (15a-B - 15f-B), and a scheme of controlling the pressure, temperature and density by controlling air bypass valves 4 and 6 and shutter valves 3 and 5. As illustrated, air bypass valve 4 is closed to allow compressor 2 to fully compress the charge and shutter valve 3 is slightly open allowing part of the air to flow

uncooled (hollow arrows) and some of the air cooled (solid arrows) to the manifolds 13 and 14, all of which could be controlled by the ECM 27 in order to provide an air charge at optimum density, temperature and pressure. The hollow arrow 4-A in conduit 120 shows how ABV 4 can be partially opened to allow some of the air to bypass and return to compressor 2 in order to finely adjust the pressure of the secondary air charge that is injected to adjust the charge density and temperature. Alternatively, all of the air charge can be directed through the intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 or through bypass conduits 121 and 122, to the manifolds 13 and 14.

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For high power with a low compression ratio and low polluting emissions, the air bypass valves (ABV) 4 and 6 are closed and the shutter valves 3 and 5 would be opened so that the compressors 2 and 1 raise the pressure of the air charge which is directed by shutter valves 3 and 5 through the intercoolers for maximum density. During the intake stroke the low pressure intake valve 16-B opens, piston 22 sucks in low pressure air, the intake valve 16-B closes before bottom dead center or after bottom dead center during the compression stroke. During the compression stroke, at the point the intake valve 16-B closed or later, intake valve 16-A opens to inject the secondary, dense, cooled air charge and then closes. Compression continues for a low compression ratio. Fuel is added, if not present, and the charge is ignited at the appropriate point near top dead center, (ignition can be before, at, or after top dead center) for the power (3rd) stroke with a large expansion ratio with high torque, then exhaust valve(s) 17 open and the scavenging (4th) stroke occurs, after which exhaust valve(s) 17 closes.

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In these designs, fuel can be carbureted, throttle body injected, port injected, injected into the cylinder and can be introduced at any point between the air intake and the piston crown. The fuel air mixture can be stratified, or from a stoichiometric to a very lean mixture for spark ignition, to a very rich mixture for diesel operation. The engine power can be controlled by fuel metering alone or

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the air supply can be properly adjusted to the proper fuel-air ratio by a throttle valve or can be "metered" by control valves 4 and 6 when using two stages of pre-compression and by control valve 4 when using a single stage of pre-compression.

5 In any of the engines of this invention, the problem common to normal engines of incomplete mixing of fuel, air and residual gas, with consequent variation in conditions at the ignition point is minimized and in some cases eliminated by the late air charge injection at high velocity. This problem, hereby addressed by the present invention, is extreme in current engines when gaseous
10 fuel is injected directly into the cylinder where the spark may occur in mixtures of varying fuel-air ratios, hence with various rates of flame development.

(Concerning the importance of finding a solution to this particular problem, engine researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology state "The
15 elimination of cycle-to-cycle variation in the combustion process would be an important contribution to improved [engine] performance. If all cycles were alike and equal to the average cycle, maximum cylinder pressures would be lower, efficiency would be greater, and most of all, the detonation limit would be higher, thus allowing appreciable increase in efficiency and/or mean effective cylinder
20 pressure with a given fuel.")

The cyclic variation spoken of is minimized and, potentially, eliminated in the engine of each of the embodiments (including two-stroke embodiments and four-stroke embodiments) of the current invention by the significant swirl
25 turbulence produced by the injection of high-pressure air. In addition, in any of the engines of this invention the swirl turbulence can be oriented tangentially to the cylinder wall by shrouding the inlet valve 16, and especially valve 16-A, or by the use of a one-way valve (such as valve 26 in Fig. 6 and Fig. 10). Even engines that receive an air charge during the intake stroke of the piston using a shrouded
30 intake valve have a tendency to reduce unwanted cyclic variation and have a

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decrease in octane requirement and an increase in knock-limited indicated mean effective (cylinder) pressure (klimep). The engine of the present invention, by injecting the charge-air, especially through a shrouded valve during the compression stroke, creates a much greater swirl turbulence to further eliminate unwanted cycle-to-cycle variation for cleaner, more complete combustion of the fuel.

The intake valve can rotate during operation and still have a flow tangential to the cylinder wall by using a conventional poppet valve and having the side of the valve head which is opposite the desired direction of the air flow being shrouded as it opens by a thickened section of the face of the engine's head forming a crescent shaped collar or projection to direct the air flow in the desired direction while the valve is open.

In the diesel combustion system, the better mixing process of the present invention allows much richer fuel-air ratios for greater smoke-limited power, and smoke and particulates are virtually eliminated to an extremely rich fuel-air ratio.

The swirl turbulence produced by high pressure charge injection during the compression stroke is not dampened by the compression stroke and the later the charge is injected, the smaller the volume of charge required to produce the desired swirl turbulence. In any reciprocating internal combustion engine operating in accordance with the method of the present invention, a very high pressure, temperature-controlled air charge can, selectively, be injected tangentially oriented, very late in the compression stroke, for example, just prior to, during or with fuel injection and, with extremely high pressures, even during the combustion process.

Since the secondary air charge in the engine of Fig. 4 through Fig. 7, Fig. 9, Fig. 9-B and Fig. 15 through Fig. 20 is compressible to an extremely high level

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of pressure, the intake valve 16-A is, in alternate embodiments, replaced by a more controllable and fast-acting valve, such as, but not limited to, a high-speed solenoid valve (not shown). This valve is, preferably, operated either mechanically, electrically or by vacuum and is, preferably, controlled by an engine control module (ECM) as illustrated in Fig. 7, Fig. 9-B, Fig. 15 through Fig. 20 and Fig. 33. In this system the secondary air charge can, selectively, be injected very late in the compression stroke of piston 22 in order to increase charge density, and swirl turbulence, and to reduce peak and overall combustion temperatures and to lessen the production of polluting emissions. The injection could be performed in a tangentially oriented fashion. This would greatly increase swirl turbulence and prevent undesirable cyclic variations which are common in normal engines and most troubling in gaseous or diesel fueled engines.

The use of this system should result in lower maximum cylinder pressures and temperatures. Efficiency should be greater and the detonation limit higher, thus allowing an appreciable increase in efficiency and mean effective cylinder pressure with a given fuel. All of the engines of this invention operate with a more complete expansion process as compared to the typical prior art engines, thereby providing further improvements in efficiency and emissions characteristics.

In accordance with the present invention, the 4-stroke engines of the present invention (for example, Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 4-B, Fig. 5, Fig. 7 and Fig. 33) are designed, as are the 2-stroke engines of the present invention (for example, Figs. 8-11, 25 and 33), to use an expansion ratio larger than the compression ratio. In order to accomplish this result, the expansion ratio is set by selecting the appropriate combustion-chamber volume and the compression ratio is reduced below this value by very early or very late closing of the inlet valve.

The engine 100⁸ of Fig. 8

Referring now to Fig. 8, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100⁸ for gasoline, diesel, alcohol, natural gas, hydrogen or hybrid dual-fuel operation and having six cylinders 7a-7f (only one, 7f, is shown in a sectional view) in which the pistons 22a-22f are arranged to reciprocate. Another cylinder is indicated only by the presence of the lower end of the cylinder liner 7a. A cut-a-way view shows a double-acting compressor cylinder 1. Pistons 22a - 22f are connected to a common crankshaft 20 in a conventional manner by means of connecting rods 19a - 19f, respectively. The engine 100⁸ of Fig. 8 is adapted to operate in a 2-stroke cycle so as to produce six power strokes per revolution of the crankshaft 20. To this end compressor 1 takes in an air charge at atmospheric pressure, (or alternatively an air charge which previously had been subjected to compression to a higher pressure via an admission control valve 6 through an intake conduit 102, leading from compressor 2 by way of bypass control valve 6 and shutter valve 5 and bypass conduit 104 or through the intercooler 10). During operation of the engine of Fig 8, the air charge is compressed within the compressor 1 by its associated piston 131, and the compressed charge is forced through an outlet into a high-pressure transfer conduit 109 which leads to bypass valve 3 which is constructed and arranged to channel the compressed charge through intercoolers 11 and 12 or through bypass conduit 111 in response to signals from the engine control module (ECM) 27. This module directs the degree of compression, the amount and the direction of the flow of the compressed charge through the intercooler and/or the bypass conduit into manifolds 13 and 14. Manifolds 13 and 14 are constructed and arranged to distribute the compressed charge by means of branch intake conduits 15a - 15f and to inlet valves 16 and 16', and to the remaining five power cylinders. Alternatively, an ancillary compressor 2 receives atmospheric air through inlet opening 8, pre-compresses the air charge into conduit 101 leading to control valve 5 which in response to signals from ECM 27 will direct the compressed charge through intercooler 10 or bypass conduit 104 to compressor 1. The ECM 27 can also control valves 4 and 6 to direct part or all of the charge

passing through compressors 1 and 2 back through conduits 120 and 103 in order to adjust the amount of compression of compressors 1 and 2 ranging in either or both compressors from full compression to no compression, thus during light-load operation either compressor 1 or compressor 2 could supply the needed compressed air to the cylinders.

The Engine 100⁸ of Fig. 8 has camshafts 21 which are arranged to be driven at the same speed as the crankshaft in order to supply one working stroke per revolution for the power pistons. The reciprocating compressor can have one or more double-acting cylinders one is pictured 1 and can have more than one stage of compression, and the crankshaft 20 would supply two working strokes per revolution, for one or more compressors, as described hereinafter. The reciprocating compressor could alternatively be driven by a short crankshaft which would be rotated by a step-up gear on the main crankshaft driving a smaller gear on the ancillary crankshaft. The ancillary rotary compressor 2 could be driven by V-pulley operated by a ribbed V-belt and could have a step-up gear between the V-pulley and the compressor drive shaft. The rotary compressor 2 could also have a variable speed drive as in some aircraft engines.

20 Description of the operation of the engine 100⁸ of Fig. 8.

Charge-air is induced into the inlet opening 8 of compressor 2, from there it passes through the compressor 2 where the charge is then inducted into conduit 101 to shutter valve 5 where the charge is directed either through intercooler 10 or through air bypass valve 6 where a portion or all of the charge can be directed back through the compressor 2 where the charge is re-circulated without compression, or valve 6 can direct the air charge into the inlet of compressor 1 where the air charge is pumped out the outlet duct of compressor 1 which leads to shutter valve 3 where the charge is directed either through intercoolers 11 and 12 or through air bypass valve 4 or a portion through both, leading to manifolds 13 and 14 which distribute the charge-air to the intake valves 16 and to the intake

valve of each power cylinder 7 of the engine 100⁸. (Bypass valve 4 can direct part or all of the air charge to manifolds 13 and 14, or can recirculate part or all of the air charge through conduit 120 back to conduit 106 and into the inlet of compressor 1.) The engine control module (ECM) 27 controls valves 3, 4, 5, and 6, in order to adjust the pressure, temperature and density of the charge that is inducted into the engine's combustion chambers 130. The same ECM 27 can control a variable-valve-happening control system to adjust the time of opening and closing of the inlet valves 16 and exhaust valves 17 of the power cylinders in relationship to the angle of rotation of crankshaft 20, in order to adjust the compression ratio and charge density of the engine for optimum performance in regard to power, torque, fuel economy and characteristics of fuel being supplied.

The operation of the power cylinder 7 is in this manner:

15 Alternate Method 1:

Near the end of the power stroke in cylinder 7, the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' open and, with the exhaust valve still open, the piston 22 begins the second or exhaust stroke. During the exhaust stroke, perhaps as early as 70° to 60° before top dead center the exhaust valves 17, 17' close. At the point the exhaust valves are closed the compression ratio is established, the intake valves 16, 16' are opened at that point or later in the compression stroke, the compressed air and/or air-fuel charge is injected into the combustion chamber 130 of the power cylinder 7, intake valve 16, 16' closes at perhaps 60° before top dead center, with the swirl and squish turbulence accompanying the high-pressure air injection, the piston 22 continues towards the end of its stroke thus compressing the charge producing a very low compression ratio, which can be as low as 2:1. If fuel is not already present as a mixture, fuel is injected into the incoming air stream or it is injected into a pre-combustion chamber or directly into the combustion chamber after closure of the intake valve. The fuel can be injected into the midst of the charge

swirl for a stratified charge combustion process, or it can be injected onto a glow plug if diesel fuel is to be ignited. The fuel-air mix is ignited by compression or spark, the latter at the opportune time for greatest efficiency and/or power.

Generally, the fuel would be injected and ignited before top dead center of the piston. The fuel can be injected later and perhaps continuously during the early part of the expansion stroke for a mostly constant-pressure combustion process and especially for diesel fuel. The fuel air mixture is ignited preferably before the piston reaches top dead center and the combusted charge expands against the piston as it moves toward bottom dead center. At near bottom dead center of the piston stroke, the exhaust valve(s) is opened and the exhausted mixture is scavenged by positive displacement by the piston during the scavenging stroke. If the intake valve 16, 16' is opened earlier some valve overlap with the exhaust valve may be required for scavenging. If the intake valves 16, 16' are opened late no valve overlap would be needed, exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' closing at approximately the same time that intake valve(s) 16, 16' open. The expansion ratio of the engine could be about 19:1, for diesel fuel, 14:1 for gaseous fuel or gasoline, which expansion ratio is established by dividing the cylinder displacement volume by the volume of the combustion chamber.

Alternate operation method 2:

Near the end of the power stroke in cylinder 7 the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' open, and with exhaust valve 17, 17' still open, begins its second or scavenging-charging stroke. At a point near mid-stroke, (e.g., about 90° before top dead center,) the exhaust valve 17, 17' still being open, the intake valve opens with a small valve overlap to admit high pressure scavenging and charging air. One or more intake valves 16 can be recessed, as in item 30 in Fig. 11, in order to direct the first inlet air down and along the cylinder 7 wall in order to loop-scavenge the cylinder during the very small overlap of valves 16, 16' and 17, 17'. The exhaust valve 17, 17' remains open to the point at which compression should begin and

then receives the air charge as it closes, intake valve(s) 16, 16' closing soon after, with the cylinder adequately scavenged and charged with temperature-adjusted fresh air now at high pressure. The piston 22 continues its stroke to compress the charge producing a low compression ratio, ideally 13:1 to 4:1, depending on the type of fuel used. The compression ratio is established by the point in the stroke of piston 22 in which the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' closes, and is calculated when the remaining displaced volume of the cylinder is divided by the volume of the combustion chamber.

As piston 22 continues to rise from point x, where the exhaust valve closes establishing the compression ratio, and where compression of the charge started, the pressure starts to rise at the same point. The dense cooled air charge with the short compression stroke will produce a low compression ratio with a very heavy charge, with low maximum cylinder pressure but with high effective mean cylinder pressure for great torque and power.

The pressure ratio will be established by the density, pressure and temperature of the incoming charge, the length of time inlet valve(s) 16, 16' are open and the point the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' closes. The later the exhaust valves 17, 17' close, the less the charge-air expands after injection, the less work is required to compress the charge and the less overlap of inlet and exhaust valve is required and the lower is the compression ratio.

At some point, perhaps as early as 150-120 degrees before piston top dead center position, cylinder 7 would be adequately scavenged and the exhaust valve 17, 17' could be closed before, or no later than, the time the intake valves 16, 16' are opened to admit, in this case, the entire air charge, most of the exhausted gases having been displaced by scavenging. (In some cases some residual exhaust gases are beneficial and experiments will show at what point both intake and exhaust valves can be closed without any overlap.) In this instance the "effective"

compression ratio could be as low as 3:1 or even 2:1, again producing low maximum cylinder pressure and temperature but with high mean effective pressure. Fuel can be injected as early as at the point the exhaust valve closes and can be as early as about 150°-120° before the end of the compression stroke. The fuel-air mixture is ignited before, at, or after, top dead center and the expansion (2nd) stroke takes place. The expansion ratio is established by dividing the cylinder's displaced volume by the combustion chamber volume and could be about 19:1 for diesel applications, and 14:1 for gasoline or gaseous fuels.

An engine control module (ECM) 27 can manage temperatures and densities of the charge being introduced into the cylinder 7 or combustion chamber 130 and the timing of the inlet into the combustion chamber and can thus adjust charge densities, turbulence, temperatures and pressures providing a means of restraining peak temperatures and pressures yet with a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than in a normal engine, when needed, and further providing for lower levels of unwanted polluting emissions.

A suggested light-load, fuel efficient operation system as indicated on line B(bp) in Fig. 13, would be thus: A nominal compression ratio of 13:1 could be chosen, with an expansion ratio of 19:1. The latter would establish the volume of the combustion chamber, the former would establish the maximum charge pressure (not maximum cylinder pressure), about 530 psi when compressed adiabatically. The ECM 27 would signal shutter valves 5 and air bypass control valve 6 to re-circulate the air being pumped through compressor 2, back through the compressor 2 without being compressed or for any type compressor, open a waste-gate valve to bypass the compressor. Shutter valve 5 bypasses the intercooler 10 and directs the charge into the inlet of compressor 1. Compressor 1 would compress the charge adiabatically to say, 7:1 compression ratio. ECM 27 controls would bypass intercoolers 11 and 12 and introduce the charge into manifolds 13 and 14 with the heat-of-compression retained. If the exhaust valves

17, 17' are closed and the inlet valve 16, 16' of cylinder 7 are opened near the end of the compression stroke of piston 22 the effective compression ratio can be as low as 2:1, producing a "nominal" compression ratio of 14:1. (If the exhaust valves 17, 17' are closed and the inlet valve 16, 16' are opened earlier in the exhaust stroke, the injected charge-air should be of lower pressure and the "effective" compression ratio, that in-cylinder compression producing heat, would be greater. If the intake valves 16, 16' opened at mid-stroke, after exhaust valves 17, 17' close, and a nominal compression ratio of 13:1 were desired with an effective compression ratio of 4:1, then the charge introduced into the cylinder at mid-stroke should be compressed 4:1.) The uncooled charge is then compressed in the cylinder with an effective compression ratio of 4:1, and in either case, with a pressure of about 530 psi and a temperature above 900° F. The fuel/air charge is then ignited and expanded against the piston to the full volume of the power cylinder with an expansion ratio of 19:1.

At such a time that great power was required, the ECM 27 could signal the air bypass valve 4 and 6 to close. Compressor 2 then begins to compress the air charge to a higher pressure, at the same time ECM 27 would open shutter valves 3 and 5 to send the charge-air through the intercoolers 10, 11 and 12. Therefore, as the charge-air is cooled, and could be to as low as 150-200° F, more air is now pumped into the engine on the back side by the additional compression stage 2, to prevent a substantial pressure drop in the charge-air due to the cooling of the charge before combustion. The air charge in the combustion chamber is now compressed 2:1 (line B(ic), Fig. 13) and is maintained near the design pressure, in this case about 500-530 psi, although cooled, to significantly increase the density of the charge and the torque and power of the engine. The cooler air charge provides lower peak temperature and pressure and coupled with the high turbulence causes production of less unburned hydrocarbons, NO_x and other polluting emissions and with smoke and particulates being virtually eliminated to a very rich fuel-air mixture. The air-fuel charge is now ignited and expanded to

the full volume of the cylinder with an expansion ratio of 19:1 although the effective compression ratio is only 2:1 (see line B (ic) in Fig. 13).

5 With either operation scheme the engine can be supercharged to a higher state than can conventional engines because in most cases the inlet valve is closed at the time of combustion chamber charging and a cooler air charge prevents detonation and reduces polluting emissions. Also in most cases residence time of the fuel is less than that required for pre-knock conditions to occur.

10 When less power is needed, as during vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the engine operation could revert to light-load operation, e.g., one stage of compression could be cut out and the first cooler 10 bypassed by the air charge being re-circulated by shutter valve 5 and by bypass valve 6. Shutter valve 3 and air bypass valve 4 could direct all of the charge from compressor 1 passed
15 intercoolers 11 and 12 with the heat-of-compression retained, into manifolds 13 and 14 and to the cylinder for the less dense, more fuel efficient operation mode.

Still referring to Fig. 8, there is shown a view of a cylinder head of the engine of Fig. 8 through Fig. 11 and Fig. 25, showing optional pressure balanced
20 intake valves with cooling being provided by conduits with intake conduit 29 and outlet conduit 29', one-way valves (not shown) which allow expansions 28 on the valve stems, as they reciprocate with intake valves 16 to pump a cooling and lubricating oil or oil-air mixture through the spaces above the valve stem
expansions.

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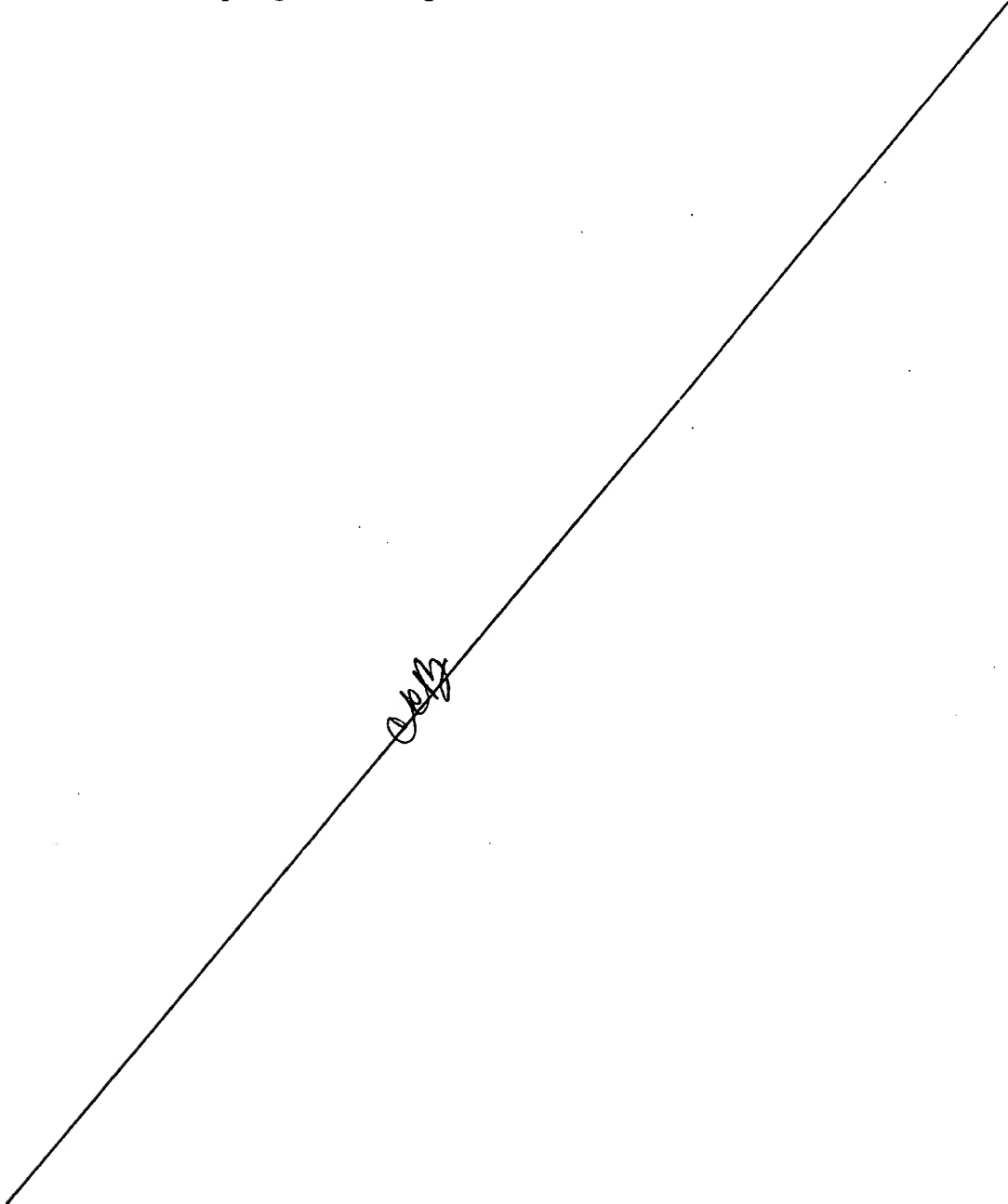
Pressure-balanced intake valves 16, 16' in Figs. 8, 11, and 25, and 16-A in Figs. 9 and 10 provide for rapid intake valve closure and allows large non-restricting intake valves and smaller than normal valve return springs. (When the intake valve is opened, pressure equilibrium almost immediately takes place
30 below the valve head within the combustion chamber and above the valve head

within the intake runner, then the pressure in the intake runner acting on the piston-like arrangement on the valve stem tends to cause the valve stem to follow the down-slope of the cam profile for rapid valve closure. Also, a new "Magnavox" pressure operated, "square wave" intake valve could be used in the engines of this invention.)

The operation of the pressure balanced intake valves is in this manner:

The pressure balanced intake valves have expansions 28 on the valve stems, the lower surface of which are exposed to gases in conduit 15A. When the valve stem is depressed by a cam 21 and intake valve(s) 16 opens in Fig. 8 through Fig. 11, or Fig. 25 any pressure in conduit 15A is equilibrated with pressure in the combustion chamber and at that time the only reactive force is by any pressure in conduit 15A which is against the underside of valve stems expansions 28, causing a rapid closure of the valve. One-way valves (not shown) on inlet and outlet channels 29 and 29' are preferably provided for oil or oil-air mixture induction through spaces above expansions 28, and alternatively through the valve stem expansions 28. The oil inlet could be at a low point in the cylinder head where oil would collect to supply the cooling system. Alternatively, oil inlet line 29 could be connected to an oil or oil-air mix supply line. The inlet conduit 29 and the exit conduit 29' from the cooling system would be fitted with one-way valves and the exit conduit 29' could be higher than the inlet conduit 29 or could be connected to an oil discharge line leading to the engine oil reservoir. The valve stem expansions 28 could also have a channel through them with a one-way valve on each side. Since historically exhaust valves have been difficult to cool, this same system would provide adequate cooling for the exhaust valves even though there is not great pressure in the exhaust conduit. This system would then be applied to exhaust valves 17 from which exhaust ports 18 originate, or to the exhaust valves of any engine to provide long life for the exhaust valves and the valve seats.

On large engines the lines from the pumps described here can converged into larger lines and the oil pumping provided by them could replace the conventional oil pump on said engine.



The engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9

Referring now to Fig. 9, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine having one atmospheric air intake, in which all of the cylinders 7a - 7f (only one (7f) is shown in a sectional view) and associated pistons 22a - 22f operate in a 2-stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used so as to produce six power strokes per revolution of crankshaft 20 for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a - 19f, respectively. A primary compressor 1, in this figure a double-acting reciprocating type, is shown which, with air conduits as shown, supplies pressurized air to one or more cylinder intake valves 16-A and 16-B (the latter only if a primary charge to valve 16-B comes from conduit 15). A secondary compressor 2 of the Lysholm type is shown in series with compressor 1. An air inlet 8 and associated compressors 1 and/or 2 with inlet conduits and manifolds 13 and 14 supply charge-air, which has been compressed to a higher than atmospheric pressure, to the air intake runner 15-A and intake valve 16-A to cylinder 7. A second conduit 32 directs an air charge from conduit 110 through optional shut-off valve 33 to intake valve 16-B to supply lower pressure air to the same cylinder. Alternatively a second conduit 15-B from conduit 15-A can be fitted with a pressure control valve 25 (both in phantom) and can direct the lower pressure air charge to the intake valve 16-B. Intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 and control valves 3, 4 5 and 6 are used to help control the density, weight, temperature and pressure of the charge air. The intake valves are timed to control the compression ratio of the engine. The combustion chambers are sized to establish the expansion ratio of the engine.

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The engine of Fig. 9, Fig. 11 and Fig. 25 have cam shafts 21 fitted with cams and are arranged to rotate at engine crankshaft speed in order to supply one power stroke for each power piston for each crankshaft rotation.

The engine 100⁹ shown in Fig. 9 is characterized by a more complete expansion process and a lower compression ratio than typical engines, and is capable of producing a combustion charge varying in weight from lighter-than-normal to heavier-than-normal and capable of selectively providing a mean effective cylinder pressure higher than can the conventional arrangement in normal engines with similar or lower maximum cylinder pressure. Engine control module (ECM) 27 and variable valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 on conduits as shown provide a system for controlling the charge pressure, density, temperature, and mean and peak pressure within the cylinder which allows greater fuel economy, production of greater power and torque at all RPM, with low polluting emissions for both spark and compression ignited engines. In alternate embodiments, a variable valve timing system with the ECM 27 can also control the time of opening and closing of the intake valves 16-A or 16-B or both, to further provide an improved management of conditions in the combustion chamber to allow for a flatter torque curve, higher power and with low levels of both fuel consumption and polluting emissions.

Brief Description of Operation of engine 100⁹ shown in Fig. 9

The new cycle engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9 is a high efficiency engine that attains both high power and torque, with low fuel consumption and low polluting emissions.

The new cycle is an external compression type combustion cycle. In this cycle part of the intake air (all of which is compressed in the power cylinders in conventional engines) is compressed by at least one ancillary compressor. The temperature rise at the end of compression can be suppressed by use of air coolers, which cools the compressed air, and by a shorter compression stroke.

During operation air is supplied to an intake valve 16-B of the power cylinder 7 which has been increased in pressure by perhaps one-third to one atmosphere or more through an air intake conduit 32 leading from ancillary compressor 2, or the air enters by conduit 15-B and a pressure control valve 25. A
5 second air conduit 15A selectively supplies charge-air at a higher pressure to a second intake valve 16-A leading to the same power cylinder 7. (In this design the intake valve 16-B admits the low pressure air after exhaust valves 17 open near bottom dead center in the power stroke, and exhaust blowdown has occurred.) Exhaust blowdown occurs after exhaust valve(s) 17 open and now
10 intake valve 16-B opens and closes quickly to inject low pressure scavenging air. The cylinder 7 is further scavenged by loop scavenging as piston 22 begins its compression stroke. Intake valve 16-B is now closed and piston 22 rises in the compression stroke to the point where compression should begin at which point exhaust valve 17 closes sealing cylinder 7 and establishing the compression ratio.
15 Compression continues and at near top dead center, at a point deemed appropriate, fuel being present, the charge is ignited by spark or compression and the power stroke takes place.

When more power is desired, a secondary air charge from conduit 15-A
20 can be introduced into the power cylinder at the time of, or after closure of exhaust valve(s) 17a during the compression stroke, by intake valve 16-A which introduces a higher pressure air charge, and quickly closes, in order to increase the charge density. Alternatively, the primary air charge may be boosted to a higher pressure by adjusting air bypass valve 6 to send more air through compressor 2,
25 by increasing the speed of compressor 2 or by changing the setting on the control valve 25 on the conduit 15-B which alternatively supplies the low pressure primary air charge to intake valve 16-B. The temperature, pressure, amount and point of injection of a secondary charge, if added, is adjusted to produce the desired results.

For light-load operation an intake valve disabler 31 (there are several on the market, for example, Eaton Corp. and Cadillac) can disable intake valve 16-A when light-load operation does not require a high mean effective cylinder pressure. Alternatively, during the time the low pressure air to intake valve 16-B is supplied by conduit 15-B the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 can be opened to re-circulate some of the charge-air back through the compressor 2 in order to relieve the compressor of compression work during light-load operation. Additionally, and preferably, air bypass valve 4 can re-circulate part or all of the air pumped by compressor 1 back to the inlet of compressor 1 on demand in order to reduce pressure and density of the secondary charge going through intake valve 16-A.

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new-cycle engine 100° is thus:

1. Intake air at greater than atmospheric pressure that has been compressed by at least one compressor 2 and has had its temperature adjusted by bypass systems or charge-air cooler 10, is introduced into the cylinder 7 through intake valve 16-B, which is opened by a small lobe on cam 21-B at near bottom dead center, at the end of the power stroke (perhaps at bottom dead center) after exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' have opened earlier say, at 40° before bottom dead center, for exhaust blowdown. The exhaust valves remain open after bottom dead center for further scavenging of the cylinder 7. The intake valve 16-B closes at near bottom dead center.
2. After the power stroke is complete and cylinder 7 is filled with fresh charge, the exhaust valve(s) 17 is left open for a period of time after the piston has passed bottom dead center (with intake valve 16-B now closed) in order to further scavenge the power cylinder with the fresh air charge present and further, in order to establish a low compression ratio of the

engine, the compression ratio being established by the displaced cylinder volume remaining at the point of the exhaust valve 17 closure, being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber.

- 5 3. With the cylinder 7 now filled with fresh air, the compression (2nd) stroke continues and, at some point the exhaust valve 17 is closed and compression begins for a small compression ratio. This makes it possible to lessen the temperature rise during the compression stroke. Compression continues, fuel is added if not present, and the charge is fired at the appropriate point near top dead center and the power stroke occurs.
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4. (a) Alternatively, when greater power is required, a secondary compressed, temperature-adjusted air charge is injected into the cylinder 7 by intake valve 16-A opening and quickly closing during the compression stroke at the point at which the exhaust valve closes, or later in the stroke, to produce a more dense charge in order to provide the torque and power desired of the engine.
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- (b) When even greater power is required, the secondary air charge can be increased in density and weight by being passed through one or more intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 and by increasing compressor speed or by cutting in another stage of auxiliary compression or by passing more of the charge air through the operational compressors.
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5. Near bottom dead center of the piston position, exhaust valves 17, 17' open and the cylinder is efficiently scavenged by blowdown and by the air injected by primary intake valve 16-B.
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Detailed Description of the Operation of the engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9

5 Near the end of the power (1st) stroke of the piston 22, perhaps at about 40° before bottom dead center position of piston 22, the exhaust valves 17 open for exhaust blowdown, shortly after low pressure air flows through air conduit 32 from conduit 106 and optional shut-off valve 33 and compressor 2 or alternatively through air conduit 15-B supplied by a pressure regulator valve 25 from compressed air line 15-A (as shown in Fig. 9, and Fig. 10), through an intake valve 16-B into the cylinder 7. Intake valve 16-B closes shortly after bottom dead center or, perhaps at bottom dead center. Exhaust valves 17 remain open during the first part of the compression (2nd) stroke of piston 22. The cylinder 7 is now efficiently scavenged by blowdown and by loop scavenging and at any point during the compression stroke, the cylinder 7, now filled with fresh air, the exhaust valves 17, 17' can close. But since a low compression ratio is desired, the exhaust valves 17, 17' can be held open until the piston has reached the point that is desired to establish the compression ratio. At, or after the time exhaust valves 17a and 17a' are closed, a secondary charge of high pressure, temperature adjusted air which has been compressed by a compressor(s) can be injected by intake valve 16-A into the same cylinder, after which intake valve 16-A closes. In addition, when very high torque and power is needed, the density of the secondary charge-air can be greatly increased by cutting-in compressor 2 or by increasing the speed of compressor 2, if already compressing, as in Fig. 9, directing more air through compressors 1 and/or 2 by valves 4 and/or 6, and by routing the charge wholly or in part through intercoolers 10, 11 and 12.

25 In this system, regardless of the point the exhaust valve is closed to establish the compression ratio, the primary fresh air charge trapped in the cylinder 7 will be lighter than normal and the compression ratio will be lower than normal, therefore, if needed, a highly compressed, temperature adjusted air charge can be injected at exhaust valve closure or later in the stroke, to provide a heavier than normal charge but with the temperature rise being restrained by the cooled

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charge and the short compression stroke. This produces a greater than normal mean effective cylinder pressure when combusted for great torque and power but still with an expansion ratio greater than the compression ratio.

5 For light-load operation a shut-off valve, or a valve disabler 31 (in phantom) on the high pressure intake valve could temporarily restrain the intake air, or hold the valve 16-A closed. This would add to the fuel economy of the engine. Alternatively, if compressor 2 is not supplying air to conduit 32 and intake valve 16-B, during light-load operation the shutter valve 5 could be closed
10 and the air bypass valve 6 can be opened so that air pumped by compressor 2 would be returned in part or wholly to the inlet conduit of the compressor 2 with little or no compression taking place there.

An ancillary automatic intake valve 26, Fig. 10, can be arranged, as shown
15 in Fig. 10, to prevent any back-flow of charge-air into conduit 15-A if the cylinder 7 pressure should approximate or exceed the pressure in conduit 15-A during the compression stroke of piston 22 before the closure of intake valve 16-A.

Alternatively, the ancillary automatic valve 26 of Fig. 10 could be used to
20 provide a constant or a variable pressure ratio in cylinder 7. In this case valve 16-A would be kept open to near top dead center and the closure time of valve 26 would be adjusted by the pressure differential in cylinder 7, controlled by valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 by compressor(s) output and by any throttle valve present. The automatic valve 26 could be of the spring-retracted disc type and could be
25 fabricated of metal or ceramics.

Fuel can be carbureted, injected in a throttle body 56, shown in Fig. 15 through Fig. 17 and item 56 in Fig. 19 and Fig. 20, or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, injected into a pre-combustion chamber (similar to that
30 seen in Fig. 21) or, injected through intake valves 16-A, or it may be injected

directly into the combustion chamber at point x during the exhaust-compression stroke, at the time or after the piston 22 has passed point x in the compression stroke. The fuel can also be injected later and in the case of diesel operation can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps into a pre-
5 combustion chamber or directly into the combustion chamber, perhaps as Fig. 21, or directly onto a glow plug. After the temperature-and-density-adjusting-air charge has been injected, if used, compression of the charge continues and with fuel present, is ignited at the opportune time for the expansion stroke. (The compression ratio is established by the displaced volume of the cylinder
10 remaining after point x has been reached, being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion ratio is determined by dividing the cylinders total clearance volume by the volume of the combustion chamber.)

Now the fuel-air charge is ignited and the power (2nd) stroke of piston 22
15 takes place as the combusted gases expand. Near bottom dead center of the power stroke the exhaust valve(s) 17, 17' open and the cylinder 7 is efficiently scavenged by blowdown and by loop scavenging at the end of the power stroke and largely during the piston 22 turnaround time.

20 It can be seen that the later the point in the compression stroke that point x is reached (the later the exhaust valve is closed), the lower is the compression ratio of the engine and the less the charge is heated during compression.

It can also be seen that the later the temperature-density-adjusting charge
25 is introduced, the less work will be required of the engine to compress the charge, the later part of which has received some compression already by compressor 1 and/or by an ancillary compressor 2. In some cases where the load is light and fuel economy important the ancillary compressor could be bypassed with the secondary air charge perhaps eliminated temporarily and the total charge weight
30 could be less than that of a conventional engine and with the extended expansion

ratio produce even better fuel economy.

During light-load operation of this 2-stroke cycle engine (Fig. 9 and Fig. 9-B) such as vehicle cruising or light-load power generation, the secondary air charge can be eliminated by disabling high pressure intake valve 16-A temporarily (several valve disabling systems Eton, Cadillac, etc.) or air can be shut off to intake valve 16-A and the engine still produce greater fuel economy and power with the air charge being supplied by compressor 2 or 1 through conduits 15-A, 110, 32 and intake valve 16-B.

The engine 100^{9-B} of Fig. 9-B

Fig. 9-B is a schematic representation of a six-cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100^{9-B} which is for the most part identical to the engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9. The characteristics and operation and structure of the engine 100^{9-B} of Fig. 9-B are substantially similar to the engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9 and, except as necessary to point out specific points of distinction, such characteristics, operation and structure are not repeated here. Reference should be made to the sections on characteristics, structure and operations (both brief and detailed) previously presented with respect to the engine 100⁹ of Fig. 9.

The major point of distinction between engine 100⁹ and engine 100^{9-B} is that engine 100^{9-B} represents an embodiment of the engine 100⁹ wherein the compressors 1,2 are of alternate types. That is, in 100^{9-B}, the primary compressor 1 is shown as a Lysholm rotary compressor (as opposed to the reciprocating-type compressor of engine 100⁹) and the secondary compressor 2 is of the turbo-type (as opposed to the Lysholm-type of 100⁹). Although conduit 32 from conduit 110 (designated as 106 in Fig. 9) and optional shut-off valve 33 is shown supplying intake valves 16-B of only two cylinders of the engine, it is understood that other intake runners (not shown) distribute air from conduit 110 to the remainder of the intake valves 16-B of the engine, or that conduit 32 supplies an "air box" or

manifolds which distribute the air to all of the intake valves 16-B.

Referring now to Fig. 10 there is shown the same engine and the same operating system as described for the engines of Fig. 9 and Fig. 9-B, but has an optional added feature in that the secondary intake valve 16-A has an ancillary valve 26 which is automatic to prevent charge-air back-flow from cylinder 7. This feature will prevent any back-flow from occurring during the compression stroke of the engine of this invention, should the cylinder pressure approximate or exceed the pressure in conduit 15-A before the intake valve 16-A was fully closed. (This optional automatic valve 26 could be of the spring-retracted disc type, or could be any type of one-way valve.) An automatic valve at this place could be used to regulate the pressure ratio in cylinder 7 during the compression of the charge. In this case intake valve 16-A could be kept open to near top dead center, valve 26 automatically closing the intake below valve 16-A during compression, ignition and power stroke of the charge. Furthermore, the use of automatic valve 26 would allow the pressure ratio of the engine to be adjusted by simply adjusting the pressure in conduit 15-A, with intake valve 16-A being kept open to near top dead center of piston 22. The ancillary valve 26, if present, would also impart a tangentially oriented swirl turbulence to the combustion charge as would also, shrouding of intake valve 16-A.

The engine 100¹¹ of Fig. 11

Referring now to Fig. 11, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine 100¹¹ with one atmospheric air intake, in which all of the cylinders 7a - 7f (only one (7f) of which is shown in a sectional view) and associated pistons 22a - 22f operate in a 2-stroke cycle and all power cylinders are used for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a - 19f respectively. A primary compressor 1, in this figure a double-acting reciprocating type, is shown which, with an air conduits, as shown, supplies pressurized air to one or more cylinder intake valves 16a and 16b. A secondary

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Brief Description of Operation of engine 100¹¹ shown in Fig. 11

5 The new cycle engine 100¹¹ of Fig. 11 is a high efficiency engine that attains both high power and torque, with low fuel consumption and low polluting emissions.

10 The new cycle is an external compression type combustion cycle. In this cycle part of the intake air (all of which is compressed in the power cylinders in conventional engines) is compressed by an ancillary compressor. The temperature rise at the end of compression can be suppressed by use of air coolers, which cools the intake air, and by a shorter compression stroke.

15 During operation air is supplied to the power cylinder 7 at a pressure which has been increased by perhaps from one-third to several atmospheres, or greater through an air intake conduit 15. Valve 16b opens by pressure on the top of the valve stem from a very small lobe on cam 21-A for a short period of time near bottom dead center position of piston 22 in order to scavenge the cylinder and provide fresh charge-air. Exhaust valves 17, 17' open for exhaust blowdown slightly before intake valve 16b opens to admit scavenging air. The cylinder 7 is 20 efficiently scavenged mostly during the turnaround time of piston 22. During the first part of the compression stroke, perhaps as early as 10-20° after bottom dead center of piston 22 position, the first intake valve 16b closes, at a later time the exhaust valve 17, 17' closes, at which point compression of the fresh air charge starts, which establishes the compression ratio of the engine. At the point the 25 exhaust valves 17, 17' closes or any point later, the second intake valve 16a and perhaps 16b, by a second lobe 21-C is, preferably, opened to introduce more of the temperature and density adjusted charge, if needed.

30 An intake valve disabler 31 in Fig. 10 (there are several on the market, for example, Eaton Corp. and Cadillac) can disable intake valve 16a when light-load

operation does not require a high mean effective cylinder pressure. Alternatively, the air bypass valve (ABV) 6 is opened wholly or partially to re-circulate some or all of the charge-air back through the compressor 2 in order to relieve the compressor of compression work during light-load operation. Additionally, air
 5 bypass valve 4 can re-circulate part or all of the air pumped by compressor 1 on demand in order to reduce charge pressure and density.

One suggested, preferred method of operation of the new cycle engine
 100¹¹ is thus:

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1. Intake air at greater than atmospheric pressure that has been compressed by at least one compressor and has had its temperature adjusted by bypass systems and charge-air coolers are introduced into the cylinder 7 through intake valve 16b which is opened by a very small lobe 21-D on cam 21-A
 15 at or near bottom dead center of piston 22 at the end of the power-stroke, as exhaust valve(s) 17a, 17a' have opened a little earlier (perhaps 40° before bottom dead center) for exhaust blowdown. The exhaust valve 17 remains open through bottom dead center for efficient scavenging of the cylinder 7 by blowdown and loop scavenging. Intake valve 16b closes as
 20 the fresh high-pressure charge very quickly scavenges the cylinder 7.

2. After the power stroke is complete the exhaust valves 17 are left open for a period of time after the piston has passed bottom dead center (with intake valve 16b now closed) in order to continue to scavenge the power cylinder
 25 with the fresh air charge and further, in order to establish a low compression ratio of the engine, the compression ratio being established by the displaced cylinder volume remaining at the point of the exhaust valve 17 closure being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber.

3. With the cylinder 7 now filled with fresh air which is near atmospheric pressure, the compression (2nd) stroke continues and, at the point the exhaust valve is closed, compression begins for a small compression ratio. This makes it possible to lessen the temperature rise during the compression stroke. Compression continues, fuel is added, if not present, and the charge is fired at the appropriate point near top dead center and the power-stroke occurs.
4. (a) Alternatively, at any point deemed appropriate at the time or after the exhaust valve has closed and compression of the charge has begun, a secondary density and temperature-adjusted air charge can be injected through intake valve 16a and perhaps by a second lobe 21-C on cam 21-A, through intake valve 16b. Compression continues with the secondary air charge injection, fuel is added, if not present, the charge is ignited and combustion produces a large expansion of the combusted gases producing great energy. This energy is turned into high torque and power by the engine.
- (b) When even greater power is required, the air charge can be increased in density and weight by being passed through one or more intercoolers and by increasing compressor speed or by cutting in a second stage 2 of auxiliary compression, Fig. 11. Alternatively, the timing of closing exhaust valve 17 and of the opening of intake valve 16a could be altered temporarily to close earlier and to open earlier, respectively, for a larger charge.
5. Near bottom dead center of the piston, exhaust valves 17, 17' open and the cylinder is scavenged by blowdown and by the air injected by primary intake valve 16b.

Detailed Description of the Operation of the engine 100¹¹ of Fig. 11

Near the end of the power (1st) stroke of the piston 22, perhaps at about 40° before bottom dead center position of piston 22, the exhaust valves 17 open for exhaust blowdown, shortly after, high pressure air flows through air conduit 15 from manifold 13 and 14, as shown in Fig. 11, through an intake valve 16b into the cylinder 7, the cylinder 7 is scavenged, intake valve 16b closes. (Intake valve head 30 can be recessed as shown in Fig. 11 in order to form a pipe-like opening into cylinder 7 so that when the charge-air is highly compressed, and as much as 500-530 psi is feasible, the small lobe 21-D on cam 21-A of intake valve 16b lets in a small blast of the high pressure air which is directed downward for loop scavenging, during or just after piston 22 turnaround at bottom dead center piston position.) Exhaust valves 17 remain open during the first part of the compression (2nd) stroke of piston 22. The cylinder 7 is now efficiently scavenged by blowdown and by loop scavenging and at any point during the compression stroke, the cylinder 7, now being filled with fresh air, the exhaust valves 17, 17' can close. But since a low compression ratio is desired, the exhaust valves 17, 17' can be held open until the piston has reached the point that is desired to establish the compression ratio. At, or after the time exhaust valve 17 closed, a secondary charge of high pressure temperature adjusted air which has been compressed by compressor 1 and/or 2 can be injected by the second intake valve 16a and, if desired, by another lobe 21-C (in phantom) on the first valve 16b into the same cylinder. (When high torque and power is needed, the density of the charge-air can be greatly increased by increasing the speed of the primary compressor 1 or by cutting in another stage of compression, as in compressor 2, Fig. 11, and routing the charge through aftercoolers 10, 11 and 12. Also the speed of compressor 2 can be increased to shove in more charge on the back end.) Compression would continue, for a small compression ratio, fuel would be added, if not present, the charge would be ignited and the gases expanded against piston 22 for the power stroke.

For light-load operation, a shut-off valve (or a valve disabler 31 shown in Fig. 10 on the intake valve 16-A) could temporarily restrain the intake air, or hold the intake valve 16a closed. This would add to the fuel economy of the engine.

- 5 Alternatively, during light-load operation the shutter valve 5 could be closed and the air bypass valve 6 opened so that air pumped by compressor 2 would be returned to the inlet conduit of the compressor 2 without any compression taking place. In the same manner valves 3 and 4 could return part of the air being pumped through back to the intake 106 of compressor 1.

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- The ancillary automatic intake valve 26, Fig. 10, which can be of the spring-returned disc type, can be arranged, as shown in Fig. 10, to prevent any back-flow of charge-air into conduit 15 if the cylinder pressure should equal or exceed the pressure in conduit 15 during the compression stroke of piston 22
- 15 before intake valve 16a had closed completely. (As in other engine designs herein presented, the optional automatic valve 26 shown in Fig. 10 can be utilized to control the pressure ratio of this engine. If the intake valve 16a is kept open to near top dead center, the closure of valve 26 and the pressure ratio of cylinder 7 would be controlled by control valves 3, 4, 5 and 6 and by compressor speed and
- 20 by any throttle valve present.) Automatic valve 26 would seal the intake from conduit 15 during the last part of the compression stroke, ignition of the charge and during the power stroke.

- Fuel can be carbureted, injected in a throttle body 56 in Fig. 15 through
- 25 Fig. 17, and 56 in Fig. 19 and 20, or the fuel can be injected into the inlet stream of air, or injected into a pre-combustion chamber or, injected through intake valves 16a, 16b, (the latter during its second opening by lobe 21-C on cam 21-A), or it may be injected directly into the combustion chamber at or past point x in the exhaust-compression stroke. The fuel can also be injected later and in the case of
- 30 diesel operation can be injected at the usual point for diesel oil injection, perhaps

into a pre-combustion chamber or directly into the combustion chamber or directly onto a glow plug. After the temperature-and-density-adjusting-air charge has been injected, if used, compression of the charge continues and with fuel present, is ignited at the opportune time for the expansion stroke. (The
 5 compression ratio is established by the displaced volume of the cylinder remaining after point x (at exhaust valve closure) has been reached, being divided by the volume of the combustion chamber. The expansion ratio is determined by dividing the cylinders total clearance volume by the volume of the combustion chamber.) Now the fuel-air charge has been ignited and the power stroke of
 10 piston 22 takes place as the combusted gases expand. Near bottom dead center of the power stroke, the exhaust valve(s) 17 opens and the cylinder 7 is efficiently scavenged, first by blowdown, then by loop scavenging by air from intake valve 16b at the end of the power stroke or shortly after.

15 It can be seen that the later the point in the compression stroke that point x (the later the exhaust valve is closed) is reached, the lower is the compression ratio of the engine and the less the charge is heated during compression.

It can also be seen that the later the temperature-density-adjusting charge
 20 is introduced, the less work will be required of the engine to compress the charge, the later part of which has received some compression already by compressor 1 and/or by an ancillary compressor 2. In some cases where the load is light and fuel economy important the ancillary compressor could be bypassed with the secondary air charge perhaps eliminated temporarily and the total charge weight
 25 could be less than that of a conventional engine.

Referring now to Fig. 12 there is shown a pressure-volume diagram for a high-speed Diesel engine compared to the engines of this invention, showing three stages of intercooled compression and a fourth stage of uncooled compression
 30 indicating a compression ratio of approximately 2:1, which arrangement is

suggested for optimum power, with efficiency for the engine of this invention. (The charts of Fig. 13 and Fig. 14 show some of the improvements of the engine of this invention over current heavy-duty 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines.)

5 There are several features that improve the thermal efficiency of the engine of this invention. Greater power to weight ratios will provide a smaller engine with less frictional losses. The extended expansion ratio results in higher thermodynamic cycle efficiency, which is shown in theoretical considerations. There are also definite efficiency gains in a "staged" compression process even with external
10 compressors with associated piping, intercoolers and aftercoolers, etc. There is a very significant energy savings when air is compressed in intercooled stages. Less energy is used in compressing a charge to 500 psi in 2, 3 or 4 intercooled stages than is used to compress the hot charge to the same 500 psi in a conventional engine. A normal engine uses approximately 20% of its own energy produced to compress its
15 own air charge. Calculations show a significant energy savings in an engine if the air is compressed in aftercooled stages. Compressing a charge in only two stages to 531 psi (a 13:1 compression ratio) reduces the energy used by 15.8% over compressing to the same 531 psi level in a single stage as does the Otto and the Diesel Cycle engines. Three stages of intercooled compression raises the savings to
20 18%. This is the ideal. Degradation from the ideal should not exceed 25% which leaves a 13.5% energy savings. This 13.5% energy savings times the 20% of a normal engine's power used for compressing its own charge, is a 2.7% efficiency improvement by the compression process alone. This is one of the advantages of this engine which adds to the other thermal efficiency improvements. The low
25 compression ratio, along with the large expansion ratio provides improvements in efficiency, torque, power and durability while lowering polluting emissions.

Note 1 - In Fig. 12 the travel distance of the line for engine B on the horizontal coordinate indicates the theoretical volume at the greater density. The density is kept at that level at the actual combustion chamber volume (as shown by dashed line V) regardless of the density, by pumping in more charge at the back-side.

Referring now to Fig. 13, there is shown a chart which compares various operating parameters of the engine of this invention (B) with the operation parameters of a popular heavy-duty, 2-stroke diesel cycle engine (A).

The parameters shown for engine A are the normal operating parameters for that engine, e.g., compression ratio, combustion temperatures, charge density, etc. The parameters chosen to illustrate for engine (B) are given at two different lower "nominal" compression ratios with corresponding "effective" compression ratios, intercooled and uncooled, for two different levels of power output. The columns showing charge densities and expansion ratios indicate the improvements in steady state power density improvements for engine B even at a substantially lower nominal compression ratio and an effective compression ratio as low as 2:1 as shown in Fig. 10. The columns showing low temperatures at the end of combustion, and the column showing extended expansion ratios indicate much lower polluting emissions. Indicated power improvements of engine (B) over engine (A) even at the lower nominal compression ratio are no less than 50%.

Referring now to Fig. 14 there is shown a chart which compares the various operating parameters of the engine of this invention (B) with the operating parameters of a popular heavy-duty 4-stroke diesel engine (A).

When comparisons similar to those of Fig. 13 are made, steady state power and density improvements are much higher since engine (B) fires the denser charge twice as often as engine A for an indicated steady-state power

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density improvement of 180% over engine (A).

Referring now to Fig. 15, there is shown a schematic drawing of an engine representing the engines of Figs. 5-7, and Figs. 9-10 with a separate air cooler 10 for ancillary compressor 2, with the primary compressor 1 supplying two manifolds 13 and 14 and having separate air coolers 11 and 12 and charge-air conduits 114 and 115, and having each manifold having three cylinder air intake runners 15a - 15c, 15d - 15f, respectively. The engine of Fig. 15 operates the same as the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 and here shows suggested valving positions for shutter valve and air bypass valves for supplying the manifolds 13 and 14 with an air charge optimum for light-load operation of the engine of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10. For light-load operation, the shutter valve 5 can be closed and the air bypass valve 6 of compressor 2 (if compressor 2 is not supplying primary air charge directly to conduit 32 and intake valve 15-B) can be opened fully or partially so that part or all of the intake air of compressor 2 can be returned to the intake of compressor 2 with little or no compression occurring there. Also, the shutter valve 3 of compressor 1 can be closed, passing the air charge away from the coolers 11 and 12, the air bypass valve 4 would be closed to prevent re-circulation of the now compressed and heated air back through compressor 1 and whose shutter valve 3 and air bypass valves are both directing the air charge uncooled into manifold 13 and 14 for a low density heated charge for light-load operation. Preferably compressor 2 would be kept operative in order to supply the primary air charge through conduits 110, 32 and intake valve 16-B for a more economical scavenging-charging system.

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Referring now to Fig. 16, there is shown suggested valve positions for supplying manifolds 13 and 14 with an air charge optimum for medium-load operation for engines of Fig. 16 or for the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10. For medium-load operation the shutter valve 5 of compressor 2 is closed and the air bypass valve 6 would be opened to pass the air charge uncooled and without

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compression to the intake of compressor 1 where closed shutter valve 3 and closed air bypass valve 4 directs the air charge now compressed by compressor 1 past the intercoolers to manifolds 13 and 14 with the air compressed and heated by compressor 1, for medium-load operation.

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Referring now to Fig. 17, there is shown a suggested scenario for providing the engine of Fig. 17 or for the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 with a high density air charge for heavy duty, high power output operation. Fig. 17 shows both shutter valves 3 and 5 open and both air bypass valves 4 and 6 closed completely so that the primary stage of compression is operative and a second stage of compression has been made operative for maximum compression of the charge and the entire air charge is being passed through the intercoolers 10, 11 and 12 to produce a cooled, very high density air charge to manifolds 13 and 14 and to the engines power cylinders for heavy-load operation. This produces a very high mean effective cylinder pressure for high torque and power with maximum cylinder pressure being the same as, or lower than that of normal engines.

Referring now to Fig. 18, there is shown a schematic drawing of an alternative type of auxiliary compressor 2' for the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10 and for any other engine of this invention and a system of providing a system for cutting out the auxiliary compressor when high charge pressure and density is not needed. For relieving compressor 2' of work, (if the air compressed by compressor 2 does not go directly to conduit 32 and valve 16-B to supply the primary air charge) shutter valve 5 is closed and air bypass valve 6 is opened so that air pumped through compressor 2' can re-circulate through compressor 2, thus relieving the compressor of compression work.

Referring now to Fig. 19, there is shown a schematic drawing of the engines of Figs. 5-7 and Figs. 9-10, illustrating means of controlling charge-air density, temperature and pressure by varying directions of air flow through various electronic or vacuum operated valves and their conduits.

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Fig. 19 also shows the various charge-air paths possible by using hollow arrows to indicate heated air paths and solid arrows to indicate the more dense intercooled air paths thereby indicating how charge-air temperatures can be thermastatically or electronically controlled by dividing the air charge into two different paths. Alternatively, all of the air charge can be directed past the air coolers or all can be directed through the air coolers, as shown in Fig. 19. Also, Fig. 19 shows how the pressure output of compressor 1 and compressor 2 can be varied by partially or fully opening air bypass valves 4 and 6 or by completely closing one or both of these control valves. An engine control module (ECM) 27 is suggested for controlling the various operating parameters of the engines of this invention.

Referring now to Fig. 20, there is shown is a schematic drawing depicting an alternate arrangement in which an electric motor 34 preferably drives the compressor(s) of any of the engines of the present invention.

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Charge-air Cooler Bypass (ACB) "Shutter Valve" Control

In this section are described aspects of preferred control components which find application in connection with any of the engines (4-stroke and 2-stroke) of the present invention.

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Outline: Valves 3 and 5 are charge-air-cooler bypass solenoid (ACB) valves. In charge-air cooler bypass control, the intake air is switched between two routes by valves 3 and 5, independently of each other: either (a) valve 5 directs the flow

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Valve 3 directs the flow from compressor 1 either (a) to the conduit 111/121/122 leading directly to the intake manifolds 13 and 14 or (b) it passes the air charge
5 through charge-air coolers 11 and 12 before it flows to manifolds 13 and 14.

Air Bypass Valve (ABV) Control

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The operation could be thus: The ABV valves 4 and 6 can be controlled by signals from the ECM 27 to control the opening angle of valves 4 and 6 to provide the optimum air charging pressures for various engine loads and duty cycles. When ABV 6 is opened partially some of the air pumped through compressor 2 is passed back into the intake 8 of compressor 2 to reduce compression pressure. When ABV 6 is opened fully all of the charge of compressor 2 is passed back through compressor 2, thus compressor 2 only pumps the charge through with no pressure increase. The system can work the same for valve 4 which could bypass some of the air charge pumped by compressor 1 back into the intake conduit 110 of compressor 1 in order to reduce air charge density.

With this arrangement, combined with the arrangement of ECM 27 control of charge-air cooler bypass system for variable valves 3 and 5, the temperature, density, pressure and turbulence of the charge-air can be managed to produce the desired power and torque levels and emissions characteristics in the power cylinder of the engine.

Engine conditions that could be monitored by ECM 27 in order to effect proper engine conditions in regard to control of ABV valves 4 and 6 could include a throttle position sensor (or fuel injection activity sensor), intake air temperature sensor at various points, manifold absolute pressure sensor, camshaft position sensor, crankshaft position sensor, exhaust temperature sensor, a heated oxygen sensor and/or other sensory inputs known to be used in internal combustion engines.

The ECM 27 can control both the shutter valves 3 and 5 and the air bypass valves 4 and 6 in order to maintain the optimum air charging density pressure and temperature at all engine operating duty cycles.

Alternate Combustion Systems

Referring now to Fig. 21, there is shown a schematic transverse view of a pre-combustion chamber 38', a combustion chamber 38, a piston crown 22 and associated fuel inlet 36, a sparking plug 37, an air or air/fuel mixture inlet 8' duct, intake valve 16, an exhaust duct 18' an exhaust valve 17 suggested for liquid or gaseous fuel operation for the engines of this invention or for any other internal combustion engine.

There are many choices of systems for compression or spark ignition combustion for the engine of this invention, as shown in Fig. 1 through Fig. 33. Every fuel from avgas to heavy diesel fuels, including the alcohols and gaseous fuels can be spark ignited (SI) in this engine. One good SI system would be similar to the system shown in Fig. 21 for compressed natural gas, propane, hydrogen, gasoline, alcohols or diesel fuel. In this system, an extremely fuel rich mixture constituting the entire fuel charge is, preferably, injected into the pre-combustion chamber 38'. The fuel could be injected through fuel duct 36 with or without air blast injection, the air charge, some of which can accompany the fuel charge would be compressed into the pre-combustion chamber 38' by piston 22 during the compression stroke. Additional air with or without additional fuel, could be introduced into the cylinder proper either on the intake stroke or on the compression stroke through intake conduit 8'. In either case the second combustion stage in the cylinder proper would be with a lean mixture.

The two-stage combustion system shown in Fig. 21 will operate in this manner:

1. Pre-Combustion (first stage)

Pre-combustion occurs in the pre-combustion chamber 38' when fuel in an amount much in excess of the amount of oxygen present is injected and ignited (injector not shown). This oxygen deficiency along with the cooler, turbulent charge and lower peak temperatures and pressures greatly reduces

the formation of oxides of nitrogen. The combination of the hot pre-combustion chamber wall and intense turbulence promotes more complete combustion.

5 **2. Post-Combustion(second stage)**

Post-combustion takes place at lower pressure and relatively low temperature conditions in the space above the piston in the cylinder as the gases expand from the first stage pre-combustion chamber into the cylinder proper. If there is additional fuel in the cylinder proper, the leaner mixture is
10 ignited by this plasma-like blast from the pre-combustion chamber. The low temperature and the admixture of burned gases prevent any further formation of oxides of nitrogen. Excess air, a strong swirling action, and the extended expansion process assure more complete combustion of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and carbon.

15 The results of the engine of this invention using the pre-combustion chamber 38' of Fig. 21 are: higher thermal efficiencies due to the greater expansion, along with a cooler exhaust and a lower level of polluting emissions including oxides of nitrogen, and in addition for diesel fuels, lower aromatics and particulates.

20 Referring now to Fig. 22 there is shown a schematic transverse sectional view of an optional cylinder of the engine of this invention which will convert the 2-stroke engine of Fig. 8 through 33 to a one-stroke cycle engine and will convert the 4-stroke engines of Fig. 1 through Fig. 7 and Fig. 33 to operate in a 2-stroke
25 cycle.

By building any 2-stroke engine with all power cylinders double acting, the power to weight ratio can be doubled over the basic engine. One end of the cylinder fires and the other end is scavenged on each stroke for a nominal one
30 stroke cycle engine in the engines of Fig. 8 through Fig. 33. Use of double-acting

power cylinders in the 4-stroke engine of Fig. 1 through Fig. 7 and Fig. 33 converts the engine to a 2-stroke engine because one end of the cylinder is scavenged and one end is fired during each crankshaft rotation.

- 5 In the design of Fig. 22 needed variation of beam 39 length is accomplished by the beam end forming a scotch yoke 40 and fitting over the wrist pin 41 of the piston.

- 10 The double ended piston 22" can be linked to the end of a vertical beam 39 that pivots at the lower end 42. A connecting rod 19' is joined between the midpoint of the beam and the crankshaft 20'.

- 15 Since the crankshaft 20' itself does no more than transmit torque, its main bearings will be very lightly loaded. As a result little noise will reach the supporting casing. Because of the lever action, the crank (not shown) has half the throw of the piston stroke and can be a stubby, cam-like unit with large, closely spaced pins having substantial overlap for strength.

- 20 The compression ratio can be changed by slightly lengthening or shortening the effective length of the beam 39. This can be done by the lower pivot plate 42 being attached to a block 43 mounted slidably in a fixed block 44 and in which block 43 can be moved slidably by a servo motor 45. The gear 45a rotated by servo motor 45 is much longer than the gear 44a on the screw 43b which is rotatably attached to block 43 and rotates against threads in block 44,
25 causing gear 44a to slide back and forth on gear 45a as block 43 reciprocates in block 44. Thus as a diesel, it could be started at 20:1 ratio and then shifted to a 13:1 ratio for less friction and stress on parts. This could also be important to allow use of alternate fuels.

Referring now to Fig. 23: These same advantages hold true for the alternate design (Figure 23) in which the pivot 47' is between the connecting rod 19 and the piston 22"

5 The needed variation of the length of the beam 39 (shown in phantom) connecting the piston 22" to the connecting rod 19 can be accomplished by forming a scotch yoke 40 on the beam end fitting over the wrist-pin 41 of the piston 22", or by placing a double pivoting link 42' between the pivot 47' on the fulcrum of beam 39' with the pivot 42" being attached to a non-movable part 46 of
10 the engine and the terminal end of beam 39' being connected to connecting rod 19 by a pin 47.

 Alternately and preferably, for heavy duty engines (marine propulsion, power production, etc.) the power take off of piston 22" could be with a
15 conventional piston rod 39' being arranged between piston 22" and a crosshead 20' with a connecting rod 19' between the crosshead 20' and the crankshaft (not shown).

 Double-acting power cylinders when used in the engine of this invention
20 will be especially of importance where great power is desired and cooling water is readily available, e.g., for marine use or for power generation.

 These double-ended, double-acting cylinders can be used in all of the designs of this invention.

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 Referring now to Figure 24: There is shown a schematic transverse sectional view of a crankshaft, two connecting rods 19' and 19" and a beam 39 showing a means of providing extra burn time of a conventional 2-stroke or 4-stroke engine.

This layout for any engine provides for double the piston 22' turnaround time of a normal engine during the critical burn period. This is because piston 22' top dead center (TDC) occurs at bottom dead center (BDC) of the crank 48. At this point, crankpin motion around piston 22' top dead center is subtracted from the straightening movement of the connecting rod 19', instead of being added to it as in conventional engines. Reversing the usual action slows piston travel around this point, resulting in more complete combustion and further reducing emissions.

10 The extra burn time provided by the design of Fig. 24 can be important in the engines of this invention and to any Otto or Diesel cycle engine.

Operation of the engine constructed and arranged with the additional burning time would be the same as the other engines of this invention providing high charge density, low compression-ratios with a mean effective pressure higher than conventional engines but with more combustion time than other engines while producing even less polluting emissions.

Since the crankshaft 48 in Fig. 24 itself does no more than transmit torque, its main bearings will be very lightly loaded. As a result little noise will reach the supporting casing. Because of the lever action, the crank can have as little as half the throw of the piston stroke (depending on the point of the fulcrum), and can be a stubby, cam-like unit with large, closely spaced pins having substantial overlap for strength.

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This layout also provides for nearly twice the combustion time of a conventional engine during the critical burn period. This is because piston top dead center occurs at bottom dead center (BDC) of the crank.

The engine 100²⁵ of Fig. 25

Referring now to Fig. 25 of the drawings, there is shown a six cylinder reciprocating internal combustion engine in which all of the cylinders 7a - 7f (only one (7f) of which is shown in a sectional view) and associated pistons 22a - 22f are adapted to operate in a 2-stroke cycle and all cylinders are used for producing power to a common crankshaft 20 via connecting rods 19a - 19f, respectively. A compressor 2 supplies air to scavenging ports 52 by way of optional shut-off valve 33-M and conduit 32 and to cylinder charge inlet valve(s) 16 and 16' by way of conduits 15. The engine of Fig. 25 is adapted to operate in a 2-stroke cycle so as to produce six power strokes per revolution of the crankshaft 20. To this end, compressor 1 takes in an air charge which may have been previously subjected to compressing to a higher pressure, via an admission control valves 5 and 6 through an intake conduit 110, leading from compressor 2 by way of intercooler 10 or bypass conduit 104 and shutter valve 5. During operation of the engine of Fig. 25, compressor 2 receives atmospheric air through inlet opening 8, pre-compresses the air charge into conduit 101 leading to control shutter valve 5 which in response to signals from the ECM 27, to shutter valve 5 and air bypass valve 6, will direct the compressed charge through intercooler 10 or through cooler bypass conduits 104 to compressor 1. The air charge is compressed within compressor 1 by its associated piston 131, and the compressed air charge is forced through an outlet into a high pressure transfer conduit 109 which leads to control shutter valve 3 which, if open, directs the air through intercooler 11 and 12 to manifolds 13 and 14 or, if closed, through a conduit and air bypass valve 4 which can direct part of the air charge back through inlet conduit 104 of the compressor 1, or valve 4 if fully closed, directs all of the charge from compressor 1, in response to signals from the engine control module (ECM) 27, through the intercoolers 11 and 12 or through the bypass conduit 111/121/122 into manifolds 13 and 14. Manifolds 13 and 14 are constructed and arranged to distribute the compressed air charge by means of branch conduits 15a - 15f to inlet valves 16 and 16' of the cylinder 7a, and to the remaining five power cylinders 7b-7f. In an

alternate embodiment, instead of providing scavenging air through conduit 32', scavenging air is provided through shut-off valve 49 and conduit 50 and pressure reducing valve 25 to air box 51, through conduits 125a - 125f to scavenging ports 52a - 52f.

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The engine 100²⁵ shown in Fig. 25 has a camshaft which is arranged to be driven at the same speed as the crankshaft in order to supply one working stroke per revolution for the power pistons. The compressor can be reciprocating, comprised of one or more stages of compression with one or more double-acting cylinders, one is shown, 1 in Fig. 25. The compressor can be driven by associated connecting rods 19g to crankshaft 20 which can have throws of different lengths for different length piston strokes for the air compressor(s) than those of the power pistons. In addition, compressor 1 can be driven by a second crankshaft (not shown) which is driven by a gear meshing with a step-up gear mounted on the common crankshaft. The ancillary rotary compressor, a Lysholm type is shown 2, can be driven by a V-pulley being rotated by a ribbed V-belt and has a step-up gear arranged between the V-pulley and the compressor drive shaft. The rotary compressor 2 could also have a variable speed, or two speed drive, as in some aircraft engines.

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The operation of engine 100²⁵ shown in Fig. 25 is thus: Charge-air is inducted into the inlet opening 8 of compressor 2. From there it is pumped through the compressor 2 where it is directed by shutter valve 5 through the intercooler 10 or through a conduit to air bypass valve 6 where it is directed to the inlet of compressor 1. The charge is then pumped by compressor 1 through the outlet valve to shutter valve 3 which directs the air charge either through intercoolers 11 and 12, to manifolds 13 and 14 or into a conduit leading to air bypass valve 4 which can direct a part of the charge back through the inlet of compressor 1 or valve 4 directs the charge wholly or partially to the shutter valve 3 which directs the charge wholly or partially through intercoolers 13 and 14, or

directly to manifolds 13 and 14 which distributes the temperature-adjusted charge-air to cylinder 7 inlet valves 16 and 16' to each power cylinder of the engine. An off-and-on control valve (not shown) and conduit 32' directs air to air box 51 and to scavenging ports 52a - 52f in the bottom of cylinders 7a - 7f. In the alternates
 5 embodiment (shown in phantom in Fig. 25), the scavenging air is directed through pressure reduction valve 25, arranged on conduit 50 to provide and adjust scavenging air pressure from compression 1. Another option to reducing the manifold air pressure for scavenging the cylinders 7a - 7f is to use the manifold air through conduit 50, air box 51 and intake ports 52a - 52f without reducing the
 10 pressure from manifolds 13 and 14. The air would be used at full pressure for scavenging by the scavenging ports 52a - 52f in Fig. 25 and through inlet port 52" and exhaust port 52' in Fig. 30, which ports 52a-52f, 52' and 52" would be constructed much smaller than normally done. In this instance, although the scavenging ports were smaller-than-normal, the higher-than-normal pressure
 15 scavenging air would be very efficient. Several means of scavenging the cylinders are suggested herein. Fig. 26 illustrates more clearly (although in phantom) the preferred system of supplying low pressure scavenging air. Conduit 32' and valve 33 (shown in phantom in Fig. 26) channels air from conduit 110 from compressor 2 to conduit 50 which supplies scavenging air to air box 51.

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The engine control module (ECM) 27 (see, for example, Fig. 26) controls valves 3, 4, 5, and 6 in order to adjust the pressure, temperature and density of the charge going to the combustion chambers and valve 25, and can selectively direct a portion, a portion at a reduced pressure of the air charge to scavenging ports 52
 25 and can control valve 53 and valves 49' to open or close to select the mode of scavenging desired. The ECM can also control a variable-valve-happening control system to adjust the valve opening time and duration of opening time of inlet valves 16 and exhaust valves 17 in relationship to the degree or angle of rotation of crankshaft 20, in order to adjust the compression ratio of the engine for
 30 optimum performance in regard to power, torque, fuel economy, fuel

characteristics and to scavenging mode desired.

The preferred operation of the power cylinders shown in Fig. 25 is in this manner:

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After blowdown and scavenging of the cylinder 7 has taken place the cylinder is now filled with fresh air, and piston 22 has closed exhaust ports 52 and the piston 22 is in its scavenging-charging stroke and is rising with the exhaust valve 17 still open, at any point, perhaps as early as 120 to 90 degrees before top dead center, the exhaust valve 17 is closed to establish the compression ratio and begin compression, intake valve 16, 16' are opened at that time or later in order to produce the desired charge density and weight desired, the compressed air charge or fuel air mixture is injected through intake valve 16, 16', intake valve 16, 16' is then closed. Compression of the charge which started at point X, the point where exhaust valve 17 was closed, continues with the compression ratio being established by the cylinder clearance volume remaining at point x, divided by the combustion chamber volume. Fuel can be injected into the secondary compressed air stream being injected into the combustion chamber or injected into a pre-combustion chamber (one is shown in Fig. 21) or may be injected directly into the combustion chamber. After the closure of intake valve 16, 16', the fuel or more fuel can be injected into the midst of the charge swirl for a stratified charge combustion process, or as in compression ignited engines fuel can be injected directly into the combustion chamber, perhaps directly onto a glow plug, if suggested pre-combustion chamber is used or not, and can be injected continuously during part of the expansion stroke for a mostly constant pressure combustion process.

The fuel-air mixture is ignited by spark plug, by compression ignition, or by glow plug at the point deemed most efficient, preferably before top dead center of the compression stroke of piston 22. The expansion stroke of piston 22 takes

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Scavenging System A (Fig. 27)

Blowdown of exhaust occurs at from about 40° before bottom dead center to perhaps 40-50° after bottom dead center, with exhaust valves 17 opening at
5 approximately the same time the ports 52 are opened and remaining open after bottom ports are closed by piston 22, and closing later causing a low compression ratio.

Scavenging air can be supplied from a manifold with perhaps a pressure-
10 reducing valve 25 on conduit 50 or, preferably scavenging air can be supplied from conduit 32' from ancillary compressor 2, (shown in phantom). In this case, bottom ports 52 open shortly before exhaust valves 17 open. Blowdown occurs through bottom ports 52 out through bottom exhaust conduit and valve 53 to main exhaust pipe 18, at same time or shortly after, exhaust valves 17 open and
15 blowdown of the exhaust occurs both at the top of the cylinder through exhaust valves 53 and 17, and through exhaust manifold 18' and pipe 18 to the atmosphere. The exhaust valve 17 then stays open through a significant part of the 2nd or exhaust-charge stroke for additional scavenging, this part by positive displacement. During this scavenging-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 may
20 be closed at any point after the first 20 percent of piston 22 travel. Now at any point with cylinder 7 being now filled with fresh air, exhaust valve 17 can close and intake valve 16' open to admit pressurized air which has its temperature adjusted to what is deemed proper. The later in the exhaust-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 is closed, the lower is the compression ratio of the engine
25 established. If closed early enough the effective compression ratio can be as much as 13 or 16 to 1, if closed later the effective compression ratio can be as low as 2:1. At any point after exhaust valve 17 has closed, and the compression ratio has been established, and before piston 22 has reached top dead center, the air charge, with temperature density and pressure adjusted may be introduced by
30 opening and then closing intake valve 16. All of the operating parameters

suggested would depend on the duty cycle of the engines, e.g., power requirements, efficiency, emissions considerations and the fuel used.

5 An engine control module (ECM) 27 is shown with connections to the critical control valves of the engine which can be adjusted according the conditions signaled to the ECM 27 from various sensors in the engine.

Referring now to Fig. 28, there is shown a second system of efficiently scavenging the engine of Fig. 25;

10

Scavenging System B (Fig. 28)

Exhaust blowdown occurs through exhaust valves 17 only, with scavenging air being supplied by compressor 2 by way of conduit 32', or
 15 alternatively from manifolds 13 and 14 through conduits 50 past control valve 49 and optional pressure control 25 into air box 51 and through scavenging ports 52 in the bottom of the cylinders 7, up through the cylinder 7, out exhaust valves 17 and through exhaust pipe 18, with valve 53 being closed. In this system as piston 22 approaches bottom dead center in the power expansion stroke, ports 52 would
 20 be uncovered by piston 22 and as blowdown occurs pressurized air would be injected through all bottom ports 52 and would sweep combusted products through exhaust valves 17 which open perhaps before ports 52 for the exhaust blowdown. The bottom ports can be constructed to open at perhaps 40° before bottom dead center and could close at the same point after piston begins its
 25 second stroke. The exhaust valves 17 could remain open after bottom ports 52 are closed to aid in scavenging by positive displacement by piston 22 and to establish the desired compression ratio which is established by the point at which exhaust valves 17 close.

During this scavenging-charging stroke of piston 22 the cylinder 7 being now filled with fresh air, the exhaust valve 17 may be closed at any point after the first 20 percent or so of piston 22 travel. Now at any point exhaust valve 17 can close and intake valve 16 can open to admit highly pressurized air which has its temperature and density adjusted to what is deemed proper. The later in the exhaust-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 is closed, the lower is the effective compression ratio of the engine established. If closed early enough the effective compression ratio can be as much as 13 or 19 to 1, if closed later the effective compression ratio can be as low as 2:1. All of the operating parameters suggested would depend on the duty cycle of the engines, e.g., power requirements, efficiency and emissions considerations and the fuel used.

An engine control module 27 is suggested for use as shown for controlling the various operating conditions desired and as signaled from the engine's various sensors.

Referring now to Fig. 29, there is shown a third efficient system of scavenging the engine of Fig. 25;

20 Scavenging System C (Fig. 29)

This scavenging system would be that shut off valves 49' would be closed, (or valves 25 and 49 could be eliminated), with bottom ports opened to the atmosphere by valve 53, one inlet valve 16 leading from manifolds 13 and 14 to cylinder 7 could be opened for a very short period of time by a cam, perhaps by a small lobe on a cam that has a large lobe to open the same valve (as 21-C in Fig. 11) at a different crank angle, at the same time ports 52 were uncovered by piston 22 and exhaust valves 17 were opened. The high pressure air would quickly sweep combusted gases through ports 52 and exhaust valves 17, through their respective exhaust pipes 17 and 17' to the atmosphere. The intake valve 16 would

close quickly, no later than the time exhaust ports 52 closed. The exhaust valve would remain open for further scavenging and for the reduction of the compression ratio of the engine. Alternatively bottom exhaust valves 53 would be closed and as bottom ports 52 were uncovered by piston 22, exhaust valves 17
5 would also open earlier for blowdown, air from the airbox 51 supplied by conduit 32 would blow into ports 52 and scavenge the cylinder 7 through exhaust valves 17.

During this scavenging-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 is closed at a
10 point after the first 20 percent or so of piston 22 travel. At any point after exhaust valve 17 has closed, the cylinder 7 being now filled with fresh air, and the compression ratio having been established, and before piston 22 has reached top dead center, additional (secondary) air charge, with temperature density and pressure adjusted is introduced when needed by opening a second intake valve 16
15 and/or by another lobe 21-C on the same cam (see 21-C, Fig. 11) opening the same intake valve again. All of the operating parameters suggested would depend on the duty cycle of the engines, e.g., power requirements, efficiency and emissions considerations and the fuel used. The later in the exhaust-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 is closed, the lower is the compression ratio of the
20 engine established. If closed early enough the effective compression ratio can be as much as 13:1 or 22:1, if closed later the effective compression ratio can be as low as 2:1.

An engine control module could control all of the conditions required of
25 the engine.

Referring now to Fig. 30, there is shown a fourth system of efficient scavenging the engine of Fig. 25.

Scavenging System D (Fig. 30)

In this system exhaust blowdown occurs through the top exhaust valves 17 and through part of the bottom scavenging ports 52' which open just before bottom dead center, perhaps 40°, and simultaneously with or just after the top exhaust valves open. At the time bottom ports 52' are opened, or shortly after, exhaust valves 17 are also opened, or, valve 53 leading to bottom exhaust line 18 is already open, and exhaust blowdown occurs over the next, 40° or so after bottom dead center, with scavenging air being injected through at least one of the bottom ports 52" which has been constructed to receive pressurized air from air box 55 supplied by conduit 32' or 50 at such a time the ports 52' are opened by piston 22 and the pressure in cylinder 7 has dropped below the pressure in air-box 55. After ports 52' are closed, exhaust valves remain open through a significant part of the second or exhaust-charge stroke of piston 22 for additional scavenging by positive displacement and in order to establish a low compression ratio.

During this scavenging-charging stroke the cylinder 7 being now filled with fresh air, exhaust valve 17 may be closed at any point after the first 20 percent or so of piston 22 travel. Now at any point exhaust valve 17 can close to establish the compression ratio and inlet valve 16 can open to admit a secondary pressurized air charge which has its temperature and pressure adjusted to what is deemed proper. The later in the exhaust-charging stroke the exhaust valve 17 is closed, the lower is the compression ratio of the engine established. If closed early enough the effective compression ratio can be as much as 13:1 or 22:1, if closed later the effective compression ratio can be as low as 2:1. All of the operating parameters suggested would depend on the duty cycle of the engines, e.g., power requirements, efficiency and emissions considerations and the type of fuel used, and can be controlled by an engine control module which receives signals relating conditions in certain engine areas and which are relayed to the ECM 27.

Referring to Fig. 31, there is shown a schematic drawing depicting an alternate arrangement in which an electric motor 34 preferably drives the air compressors of an engine similar to that of Fig. 25.

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Referring now to Fig. 32, there is shown a schematic drawing showing the 2-stroke engine of Fig. 25 and Fig. 26 and having only one compressor 1 for supplying both scavenging and charge-air. Also shown are a shutter valve 3 and an air bypass valve 4, valves 16 and 17 controlling charge and scavenging air and valves 53 and 53' for releasing exhaust blowdown out of the cylinder bottom ports 52 through exhaust conduit 18 to the atmosphere. Thus the engine of Fig. 32 can perform all of the feats described for the engine of Fig. 25 and described for the engine of Fig. 25, Fig. 26, Fig. 27, Fig. 28, Fig. 29, Fig. 30 and Fig. 32. Also shown is an engine control module (ECM) 27, and connections to various valves in order to manage the charge and scavenging air temperature, density, weight and pressure, and the pressure and path of the scavenging air to achieve the desired results from the engine. Arrows show the paths possible for the heated (hollow arrows) air and the cooled (solid arrows), air, and for the charge-air to pass through the air bypass valve 4, all in order to adjust air pressure, density, weight and temperature for optimum engine performance.

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The Engine 100³³ System of Fig. 33

Referring now to Fig. 33, there is illustrated a six cylinder internal combustion engine in which part of the cylinders 62 through 65 are used for producing power and two of the cylinders, cylinders 66 and 67, are used for compressing the air necessary to operate the engine. A supercharger 57, in this case preferably a Lysholm type, is used to boost the atmospheric pressure air received through air intake 8', before the air enters compressor cylinders 66 and 67. A shutter valve 3' and air bypass valve 4' re-circulate the charge-air back through compressor 57 when both are open, to lessen compressor work and

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reduce charge densities for light-load operation. When air bypass valve 4' is closed shutter valve 3' can open or close to send the air charge to the cylinders cooled or uncooled, respectively, in order to manage combustion temperatures and temperatures for optimum performance.

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The second stage of compression is transferred from compression cylinders 66 and 67 through conduits 201, 202 to shutter valve 4" which, when closed, sends the compressed charge through conduit 204 and intercooler 11 and conduit 205 to the engine manifold 58' in a cooled condition. If opened, shutter valve 4" directs the charge away from cooler 11 through conduit 203 and 205 to the power cylinders without cooling.

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By having its camshaft arranged to rotate at one-half crankshaft speed, the engine 100³³ operates in a 4-stroke cycle, with a low compression ratio, an extended expansion ratio and high mean effective cylinder pressure when operated in a manner just as described herein for the engine of Fig. 3.

15

Alternatively, the engine of Fig. 33, with one or more of its cylinders acting as compressor cylinders and having its camshaft arranged to rotate at crankshaft speed, operates in a 2-stroke cycle with the low compression ratio, high mean effective cylinder pressure and an extended expansion ratio when operated in the manner described herein for the engines of Fig. 8, Fig. 9 and Fig. 11.

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Still referring to Fig. 33 of the drawings, additional fuel savings can be achieved in any of the engines of the present invention described hereinbefore by use of an economizer constructed as an air compressor retarder brake. For discussion of the disclosed retarder brake, this six-cylinder engine 100³³ represents any of the engines of this invention which use externally compressed air (Fig. 1 through Fig. 33) to either fully supply charge-air or which use it to enhance engine performance. The air retarder brake illustrated has a compressor 57A

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10^x

operatively connected to the drive shaft of the vehicle (not shown) or geared to the engines crankshaft 20 and stores energy produced during braking or downhill travel which is utilized to supply compressed air to the engine power cylinders via the transfer manifold 58. Such an economizer is coupled with an air reservoir 59 and during the time in which the economizer reservoir air pressure was sufficiently high for use in the power cylinders of the engine, the engine compressor can be clutchably disengaged or air pumped by the compressor(s) can be bypassed back to the inlet of the compressor(s) so that no compression work would be required of the compressor. A relief valve 60 prevents excess build up of pressure in the air reservoir. A valve 61 (being in this arrangement, a reversible one-way valve) allows air from the reservoir to be transferred to the manifold when the pressure in the reservoir 59 is higher than in the transfer manifold 58, if the air is needed. In the case of engine constructions having compression cylinders, each compression cylinder of the engine can also be deactivated during this reserve air operation time by shutting off the admission valve so that no net work would be done by the compressor(s) until the manifold-reservoir pressure dropped below operating levels. Several systems of deactivating cylinder valves are described in the art and/or have been mentioned previously.

In an alternate arrangement, the compressor 57A is eliminated and the air storage tank 59 is used to store excess air compressed by the compressor cylinders of the engine during braking and downhill travel. In this case, the valve 61 is a two-way valve and a blocking valve 70 is placed in the manifold 58 between the compressor cylinder(s) 66, 67 and the working cylinders 62-65. During downhill travel or during braking, the blocking valve 70 between compressor and working cylinders is, preferably, closed, power cylinders 62-65 are deactivated, and the two-way valve at 61 is utilized in order to divert the air compressed by the compressor cylinder(s) into storage tank 59.

When it is desired to operate the engine normally, the blocking valve 70 between the compressor and the expander cylinders is opened and the two-way valve 61 is closed. During reserve air operation, both the blocking valve 70 and the two-way valve 61 are opened. If desired, the compressor cylinder(s) 66, 67 are deactivated while in the reserve air operation mode, as described earlier. Also, a Jacob brake (a prior art retarder brake) could supply compressed air to the air reservoir tank.

Operating the engine on reserve air supply would improve the mean effective pressure (mep) of the engine for 20 percent improvement in power and efficiency, while reducing polluting emissions, during the time the engine was operating on the reserve air.

This feature would produce additional savings in energy especially in heavy traffic or in hilly country. For example, an engine producing 100 horsepower uses 12.7 pounds of air per minute. Therefore, if energy of braking were stored in the compressed air in the economizer reservoir 59, a ten or fifteen minute supply of compressed air can be accumulated and stored during stops and down hill travel. When the reservoir pressure drops below the desired level for efficient operation, a solenoid (not shown) is used to reactivate the compression cylinder valves and they (with the supercharger, when needed) will begin to compress the air charge needed by the engine.

Using the air reservoir 59, the engine needs no compression build-up for starting and as soon as the shaft was rotated far enough to open the intake valve, the compressed air and fuel would enter and be ignited for "instant" starting. Furthermore, the compressed air could be used to rotate the engine for this means of starting by opening intake valves earlier than usual to the expander cylinders to begin rotation and firing as is common in large diesel engines, thus eliminating the need for a starter motor. Alternatively, the compressed air could be used to

charge a "hydrostarter" to crank the engine as is common on some heavy-duty diesel engines.

In an alternate, and still preferred embodiment, the reserve air in reservoir 59 is additionally used to "motor" the engine to allow a vehicle such as a bus to pull away from a stop and operate fuelless for 30-60 seconds or more, which is the time that greatest pollution occurs in bus or stop-and-go delivery vehicle operation.

10 **Remotely compressed air embodiments**

Referring now to Fig. 34, there is seen a schematic representation of an engine 100 in accordance with an alternate embodiment of the present invention for externally providing charge-air for marine, locomotive, stationary, or electric power generating engines, or any engine applications of this invention, constant or variable load and speed, which have adequate electric power or waste or "bleed" air available. In Fig. 34, a remote electric air compressor 35 preferably with one or more intercooled compression stages, preferably supplies temperature conditioned charge-air (both high and low pressure, if needed) for one or more engines of this invention. The charge-air, conditioned in temperature and pressure, is supplied directly to manifolds 13 and 14 by conduit 15AE from compressor 35. The engine intake conduit 9 of, for example, Fig. 4, or low-pressure conduits 32 of other engines of this invention receive air from the atmosphere or alternatively receives low pressure air from a low pressure conduit 15BE from compressor 35.

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An alternate arrangement, also depicted in Fig. 34, for providing combustion charge-air for any of the engines 100 of the present invention is to provide charge-air from conduit 15AR which supplies waste or "bleed" air produced in industrial processes. The air is supplied either at 1 or 2 pressure levels. The lower pressure, if needed, preferably is supplied by dropping the

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pressure from the main incoming waste air conduit 15AR with a pressure regulator valve (25a leading to low-pressure conduit 15BR). The arrangement is similar to the arrangement of conduits 15-A, 15-B and valve 25 in, for example, Fig. 5, with conduit 15-A representing the supply conduit 15AR from the waste
 5 air supply, and with conduit 15-B representing conduit 15BR in Fig. 34.

The use of remotely compressed air, either waste air or from compressor 35, eliminates the engines compressors 1, 2 intercoolers 10, 11, 12, certain conduits and valves 3, 4, 5, 6 of the charge-air supply equipment, providing the
 10 air has been conditioned during or after the compression process (and prior to introduction to the manifolds 13, 14). Thus, the equipment of the engine 100 of the various embodiments shown throughout the various drawing figures of the engine 100 embodiments of this invention, is preferably eliminated up to those points designated by dashed lines A, B and C throughout the various drawings.
 15 The charge-air from either of the aforementioned remote sources is preferably introduced into the engines near the manifolds 13 and 14 and, in the appropriate embodiments, the low air pressure from the remote sources is introduced at conduit 32, as shown in Fig. 34.

20 In the remotely charged engines, the fuel can be carbureted prior to compression, can be throttle-body injected, port-injected, or directly cylinder injected.

Regarding Pollution Control

25 Referring now to Fig. 2 and Fig. 4-C there is shown a method of further reducing polluting emissions in any of the engine embodiments of this invention which includes re-burning a portion of the exhausted gases when and if required. In the 4-stroke engines of Figs. 1-Fig. 3 and in the 2-stroke engines herein depicted having a single air intake, the exhaust outlet conduit(s) 18 have a shunt
 30 conduit 202 (refer to Fig. 2) leading from a port 206 in the side of exhaust conduit

18 to a port 204 in the side of intake conduit 8. A proportioning valve 201 is situated at the intake port 204 and is arranged to selectively restrict the flow of fresh air into conduit 8, while at the same time opening the port 204 to the exhaust conduit to selectively allow entry of exhaust gases to the intake conduit 8. This valve is variable and mechanically, electrically or vacuum solenoid operated and preferably controlled by an engine control module (ECM) or control 144 in Fig. 35 and Fig. 36. This allows the re-burning of a portion of the exhausted gases, the amount of percentages thereof being adjusted by the engine control module in response to various sensors, such as an oxygen sensor, placed in strategic positions in the engine. Exhausted gases passing through conduit 202 can be cooled by either optional cooling fins 202a or by passing through an optional intercooler (not shown) before reaching the air intake conduit 8.

With reference to Fig. 4C, in engines having only one atmospheric intake conduit but having different air paths and conduits, such as conduits 15-A and 15-C of Fig. 4B, a shunt conduit 202' leading from the exhaust conduit 18 is divided into two shunt conduit portions 203a, 203b, each with a proportioning valve 209a, 209b operating so as to selectively admit exhausted gases to either or both of intake valve 16-B (through conduit 9 and eventually conduit 15-C) or to intake valve 16-A (by way of conduit 8 and conduit 15-A). Each proportioning valve 209a, 209b would allow either a portion or none of the exhausted gases to enter its respective port, meanwhile restricting entrance of fresh air if necessary. The exhausted gases can be cooled by optionally arranging fins 202a on conduit 202' and/or 203a, 203b and 203c or by passing the exhaust through an optional intercooler (not shown) before the gases are introduced into the air intake(s) of the engine.

Alternatively, as shown in phantom on Fig. 4C, one shunt portion 203a is diverted (shown as 203c) directly to conduit 15-C and provided there with a proportioning valve 209c.

In the engines of Fig. 4 and Fig. 7 having dual atmospheric air intakes 8, 9, an arrangement similar to that shown in Fig. 4C is utilized, it being understood, however, that conduit 8 is open to the atmosphere.

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In any engines having dual air intake conduits or dual air paths a portion of exhausted gases can be introduced in any amount necessary, in from one to three points and controlled preferably by an engine control module (ECM) for better management of combustion and emissions characteristics.

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This re-burn feature is of particular importance with diesel fuel operation.

Constant Load and Speed Engines

Whereas the preponderance of the foregoing specification describes
 15 embodiments and representative engines of the present invention which are optimized for vehicular (marine, truck, bus, automobile, tank, train and plane) duty cycles and describe systems and methods for varying power, torque and speed, the present invention finds useful application for obtaining high power and torque while maintaining optimum fuel economy and low polluting emissions in
 20 less complex engines, such as, for example, constant load and speed engines. Fig. 35 and Fig. 36 depict alternate embodiments of the present invention which embodiments are representative of constant load and speed engines (e.g., for electric power generation and in other stationary or industrial engine applications, e.g., for pumps and compressors) outfitted in accordance with the principles of the
 25 present invention.

The Engine of 100 System of Fig. 35

Referring now to Fig. 35 there is shown is a schematic presentation of an engine which represents any of the 4-stroke or 2-stroke engines of the present
 30 invention outfitted for constant load and speed operation. The basic components

of the engine 100, such as compressors 1, 2 and optional intercoolers 10, 11, 12 (shown in phantom) and their necessary associated conduits are, preferably, designed for optimum operating parameters having only the basic components. The various controls, shutter valves, air bypass valves and their associated bypass
 5 conduits such as those in previously described embodiments, are preferably eliminated in order to reduce weight, cost and complexity of operation. In Fig. 35, the engine 100 is shown as outfitted with a first ancillary compressor 1 and a second ancillary compressor 2, optional intercoolers 10, 11, 12 (shown in phantom) and interconnecting conduits, all operating as would be understood with
 10 reference to the previous detailed descriptions and operating with two stages of pre-compression of the charge-air, intercooled or adiabatically compressed.

Fig. 35 shows a preferred setup for power generation with any of the engines of this invention. The power output shaft 20 of the engine 100 is coupled
 15 schematically by line 140 to power input shaft 20" of generator 141 which has electric power output lines 142. As the shaft 20 of the engine 100 rotates the shaft 20" of generator 141, the amount of electric power produced by generator 141 is detected by sensor 143 and relayed to control unit and governor 144 which contains various relays and integrated circuits to quantify the power output and to
 20 send messages by line 145 to fuel/air control (not shown) on fuel line 148 and throttle 56, and/or by line 149 to spark control to advance or retard the spark in spark-ignited engines and/or to send messages through lines 146 and 146b for engines having fuel injection systems, e.g. for natural gas, gasoline or diesel fuel, or to fuel/air controls, all in order to control the fuel input, speed and output of
 25 engine 100 and hence the output of generator 141. Control unit 144 also sends signals to control the proportioning valve 201, shown in Fig. 4 and to proportioning valves 209a, 209b, 209c shown in Fig. 2 to control the amount, if any, of exhaust recirculated by these valves for re-burn in any engine of this invention utilizing this feature. Further explanation of the components and
 30 operation with the engine 100 of the present invention is deemed unnecessary as it

would be understood by those skilled in the art having reference to the present disclosure.

The optional intercoolers 10, 11, 12 (shown in phantom) are preferably
5 used for gaseous or gasoline fueled engines and are preferably eliminated or reduced in number or cooling capacity in the compression-ignited engine, this being made possible by low peak pressures and temperatures in the engines of this invention.

10 Referring now to Fig. 36 there is shown an engine illustrated as a 2-stroke engine but representing any of the engines of the present invention, 2-stroke or 4-stroke, which is coupled schematically by line 140 with an electric generator 141. The engine and arrangements are similar in structure and operation as that shown and described for the engine of Fig. 35 with the exception that engine of Fig. 36,
15 operating as either 2-stroke or 4-stroke cycle engine 100, has only a single stage of pre-compression, optionally intercooled by intercoolers 11, 12 (shown in phantom), of the charge air. As with the engine of Fig. 35, intercoolers 11, 12 are preferably eliminated or reduced in cooling capacity in compression-ignited versions of the engine 100 of this invention. Also, as with the engine 100 of Fig.
20 35, the governor, and other controls and the operation of the engine and generator would be understood by those skilled in the art having reference to the present disclosure.

It will be seen by the foregoing description of a plurality of embodiments
25 of the present invention, that the advantages sought from the present invention are common to all embodiments.

While there have been herein described approved embodiments of this invention, it will be understood that many and various changes and modifications
30 in form, arrangement of parts and details of construction thereof may be made

without departing from the spirit of the invention and that all such changes and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims are contemplated as a part of this invention.

- 5 While the embodiments of the present invention which have been disclosed herein are the preferred forms, other embodiments of the present invention will suggest themselves to persons skilled in the art in view of this disclosure. Therefore, it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention and that the scope of the
- 10 present invention should only be limited by the claims below. Furthermore, the equivalents of all means-or-step-plus-function elements in the claims below are intended to include any structure, material, or acts for performing the function as specifically claimed and as would be understood by persons skilled in the art of this disclosure, without suggesting that any of the structure, material, or acts are
- 15 more obvious by virtue of their association with other elements.

What I claim is:
